

FACES

'SNL' star Aidy Bryant pleased with approach of new series for Hulu

Page 18



MILITARY

Sen. Inhofe weighs in on Afghanistan, Syria and Shanahan's future

Page 7

US ambassador says base in Poland would not affect Germany

Page 4



Air Force pilot aiming for Olympic bobsled team » Back page

STARS AND STRIPES®

stripes.com

Volume 77, No. 214 ©SS 2019

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2019

平成32年4月5日 第三種郵便物認可 日刊(土日除く)

発行所 星条旗新聞社 〒106-0032 東京都港区六本木7丁目23番17号 定価 ¥50

50¢/Free to Deployed Areas

STRANDED IN SEOUL

US Army veteran stuck in South Korea over military conscription confusion

By KIM GAMEL
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — Tong Yi, a U.S. Army combat veteran from Ohio better known as Don, planned to be in South Korea for only a few days to attend his father's funeral.

But the 40-year-old restaurateur has found himself stranded in Seoul after airport authorities prevented him from leaving the country Feb. 6.

It turns out he was on a watchlist for South Korean men who failed to serve their mandatory military service at home. But he didn't learn that until later.

"At the airport they couldn't tell me what was wrong. They just told me, 'There's a block on your travel. We don't know why,'" he told Stars and Stripes in interviews this week.

Yi was told to go to a police station in Seoul, but it was closed for a holiday so he had to wait.

The next day, police explained the allegation of draft dodging and jailed him for several hours while they figured out what to do.

SEE STRANDED ON PAGE 3



"I'm just thankful that I am getting a lot of support from my community back at home. That's keeping me going right now."

KIM GAMEL/Stars and Stripes

Tong Yi, known as Don to family and friends, stands in front of the U.S. Embassy in Seoul, South Korea, before going to a meeting there to discuss his case Monday.

Space-A flights slated to resume at Aviano on trial basis

By NORMAN LLAMAS
AND CHAD GARLAND
Stars and Stripes

AVIANO AIR BASE, Italy — Routine passenger flights to Aviano Air Base are slated to resume this spring, at least temporarily, bringing the possibility of regular space-available travel to the base in Italy more than two years after it was discontinued.

From April to September, U.S. Transportation Command will run a "proof of principle" test of a Patriot Express rotator to and from the base at the foot of the Italian Alps, Air Mobility Command spokesman Capt. Mark Graff said Monday. Depending on the results, the route could become permanent.

A weekly run of the military chartered service from Aviano to Germany was cut

in the fall of 2016, after which servicemembers on permanent change of station orders and their families had to fly on commercial airlines into and out of Marco Polo International Airport in Venice. The cancellation also brought an end to a regular flight that was nearly free for leisure travelers eligible to fly on a space-available basis.

The proposed test of the service's return to Aviano is expected to offer a minimum

two flights per month, said Maj. Dave Dunn, a spokesman for TRANSCOM. The planned route is from Maryland's Baltimore/Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport to Ramstein Air Base, Germany, on to Aviano, and ending at Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar. Return trips follow the route in reverse.

SEE SPACE-A ON PAGE 5

MILITARY

US ships sail near disputed Spratlys

By WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

FORT SHAFTER, Hawaii — Two U.S. Navy warships sailed this week close to disputed islands militarized by Beijing in the South China Sea, the Navy said Monday.

The destroyers USS Spruance and USS Preble passed “within 12 nautical miles” of the Spratly Islands while conducting “freedom of navigation operations,” U.S. Pacific Fleet said in a statement.

The operations came as the U.S. and China were set to begin trade negotiations Tuesday in Beijing.

The operations were conducted “in order to challenge excessive maritime claims and preserve access to the waterways as governed by international law,” the statement said.

The South China Sea is a major shipping route, with an estimated \$3 trillion worth of goods passing through the waters each year.

“All operations are designed in accordance with international law and demonstrate that the United States will fly, sail and operate wherever international law allows,” the Navy said. “That is true in the South China Sea as in other places around the globe.”

The Navy did not specifically identify what features the destroyers sailed past, but Reuters reported the ships had steamed near Mischief Reef, which is the largest artificial island created by China in the archipelago.

Before China built the island by dredging sand from the sea floor, Mischief Reef was completely un-

derwater and thus regarded by international law as part of the continental shelf of the nearby Philippines.

China has built military outposts throughout the South China Sea on islands also claimed by Vietnam, Malaysia, Taiwan, Brunei and the Philippines.

The U.S. has not taken sides in these sovereignty disputes but has been unwavering in its assertions that international maritime law allows ships to sail near these sites.

American ships and aircraft routinely pass through the South China Sea, usually raising China’s ire. U.S. Navy ships conducted freedom-of-navigation operations near the Paracel Islands in January and the Spratlys last fall.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying told reporters Monday in Beijing that China’s navy had “warned off” the Spruance and Preble, according to a Bloomberg report.

“We firmly oppose any action to jeopardize the sovereignty and security of countries under the pretext of freedom of navigation,” she said.

Asked by a reporter whether the latest operation would affect trade talks, Hua offered an oblique assessment about U.S. “tricks.”

“I believe you all see through these small tricks by the U.S. side,” she said.

olson.wyatt@stripes.com
Twitter: @WyattWolson



DEVIN M. MONROE/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

The aircraft carrier USS Carl Vinson is scheduled for a \$34.4 million upgrade starting this year.

General Dynamics to renovate Carl Vinson

By CAITLIN DOORNBOS
Stars and Stripes

The Navy has awarded a \$34.4 million contract to renovate the aircraft carrier USS Carl Vinson and alter it to accommodate fifth-generation, F-35C Lightning II fighters, according to the Defense Department.

The award to General Dynamics will fund work on the carrier’s equipment, hull and systems as it goes into dry dock for scheduled upkeep later this year, according to an announcement Friday.

The contract is good for fiscal year 2019, and the work is expected to be complete by July 2020, according to the Defense Department. The work will be done at the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard and Intermediate Maintenance Facil-

ity in Bremerton, Wash.

Part of the renovations include preparations needed to embark an F-35C Lightning II squadron, according to a statement in January by Puget Sound Naval Shipyard. Once finished, the Carl Vinson will be the first aircraft carrier to have F-35Cs.

The ship will also undergo “periodic maintenance on major components like rudders, shafts and tanks, and will upgrade crew living spaces,” according to the shipyard statement.

The Carl Vinson arrived Jan. 20 at its new homeport of Naval Base Kitsap-Bremerton, Wash., according to the Navy. It was previously home-ported in San Diego.

In a Navy statement last month, Puget Sound Naval Shipyard com-

mander Capt. Howard Markle said the Bremerton crew is “proud of the service (they have) provided to keep the ship in peak operational condition.”

“I and the entire shipyard team are looking forward to supporting Vinson here at the shipyard in 2019, and we’re committed to continue to provide her our very best support while she’s in our care,” he said.

The Carl Vinson was commissioned in 1982 and is expected to be replaced in the 2030s by a yet-to-be-named Gerald R. Ford-class aircraft carrier. That ship, known for now only as CVN 81, is currently being designed, according to the Navy.

doornbos.caitlin@stripes.com
Twitter: @CaitlinDoornbos

TODAY IN STRIPES

American Roundup	17
Business	13
Classified	19, 23
Comics	22
Crossword	22
Faces	18
Opinion	20
Sports	25-32
Weather	13

STARS AND STRIPES

However you read us,
wherever you need us.

Mobile • Online • Print

EUROPE

ADVERTISING

KRISTI KIMMEL

CustomerService@stripes.com

+49 (0) 0631.3615.9111
DSN: 314.583.9111

MIDDLE EAST

ADVERTISING

KRISTI KIMMEL

CustomerService@stripes.com

+49 (0) 0631.3615.9111
DSN: 314.583.9111

PACIFIC

ADVERTISING

ICHIRO
KATAYANAGI

CustomerHelp@Stripes.com

+81(3) 6385.3267 DSN 315.229.3267

PCSing? STARS AND STRIPES. RELOCATION GUIDE

Every Friday in the European and Pacific editions
of Stars and Stripes AND online daily at
www.stripes.com/relo



MILITARY

Abrams: Few military changes in N. Korea

BY COREY DICKSTEIN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The top U.S. military commander in South Korea said Tuesday that North Korea has made few, if any, changes to its military posture and has provided no evidence it intends to end its nuclear program since agreeing last summer to do so.

Tensions have eased along the demilitarized zone between North and South Korea since the summit in June between President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in Singapore, Army Gen. Robert Abrams, the chief of U.S. Forces Korea, told the Senate Armed Services Committee. But Kim's regime has declined to provide proof that they had taken any irreversible steps toward denuclearization, and his forces have continued to conduct "full spectrum" training exercises.

"I remain clear-eyed about the fact that despite the reduction in tensions along the [demilitarized zone] ... we have observed no significant changes to size, scope or the timing of their ongoing exercises compared to the same time period over the last four years," said Abrams, who took command in South Korea about three months ago. "Further, North Korea's conventional and asymmetric military capabilities, along with their continued development of advanced conventional systems, remain unchecked. These capabilities continue to hold the United States, [South Korea] and our regional allies at risk."

North Korea remains the No. 1 immediate threat to American forces in the Indo-Pacific Command area of operations, said Adm. Philip Davidson, the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command chief who testified alongside Abrams on Tuesday.

The observations come just weeks before Trump and Kim are set to meet face-to-face again. That summit is scheduled for Feb. 27 and 28 in Hanoi, Vietnam.

Trump has touted an optimistic view of

North Korea — once proclaiming it was no longer a threat — since his first meeting with Kim. He tweeted this week that he looked "forward to seeing Chairman Kim & advancing the cause of peace!"

Abrams, Davidson and several Republican Armed Services Committee members endorsed the president's second summit, saying they hoped to see the North Ko-

'North Korea's conventional and asymmetric military capabilities ... remain unchecked.'

Gen. Robert Abrams
U.S. Forces Korea commander

American troops from South Korea. "That action would significantly undermine regional security and our ability to fulfill our treaty obligations to South Korea," said Reed, the top Democrat on the committee.

Following his first meeting with Kim, Trump abruptly announced he would cancel large-scale military training exercises in South Korea. North Korea agreed to return to the United States some 50 boxes of remains believed to contain the bodies of missing American servicemen from the Korean War.

Abrams downplayed the impact of curbing those high-level exercises on U.S. and South Korean troops' combat readiness, saying servicemen have continued to conduct training exercises together on

rems commit to dismantling their nuclear programs transparently.

Several Democrats did not express such optimism. Sen. Richard Blumenthal, of Connecticut, said the first meeting led to "a stark and stunning lack of any action (or) progress."

Sen. Jack Reed, D-R.I., raised concerns that "Trump could make a bad trade in the talks, such as removing



PHOTOS BY CARLOS BONGIOANNI/Stars and Stripes

Commander of U.S. Forces Korea Gen. Robert Abrams testifies before the Senate Armed Services Committee on Tuesday during a hearing on Capitol Hill in Washington.

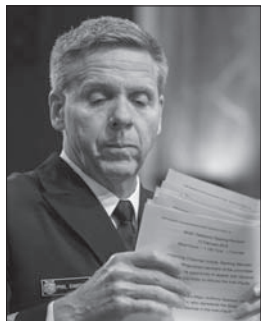
smaller scales. They remain prepared and capable of defending South Korea against a nuclear weapons test was before the first Trump-Kim summit.

"Today is day 440 since the last strategic provocation of the [North Koreans] ... either a missile flight test or nuclear weapons test," he said.

"The reduction in tensions on the peninsula is palpable. Along the DMZ, there has been a significant reduction that has enabled nation confidence-building measures ... decreased the chance of mistakes, miscalculation and continue to preserve space for the main (diplomatic) effort." The upcoming second summit, he said, was a "positive sign of continued dialogue."

"It certainly beats the alternative of what we were living with in 2017," Abrams said.

dickstein.corey@stripes.com
Twitter: @CDicksteinDC



Commander of U.S. Indo-Pacific Command Adm. Philip Davidson gathers his notes after testifying.

Stranded: Yi barred from leaving South Korea until at least March 2 pending an investigation

FROM FRONT PAGE

Yi was born in Seoul but emigrated to the United States with his family at the age of 9 and received U.S. citizenship in 2011 while serving in the U.S. Army. He said it never occurred to him that he still had responsibilities in South Korea.

Yi served in the Army from 2004 to 2012, including tours in South Korea and Afghanistan. He said the conscription issue came up when he was going to Korea the first time, in 2004, but authorities dismissed the problem because he was a soldier.

He assumed that was the end of it, but he was flagged when trying to fly home on Feb. 6 after his first trip as a civilian.

I said authorities have acknowledged that he had no obligation to serve but detained him because he had not submitted the required notification about his citizenship plans when he turned 18.

"They just considered me as somebody who skipped the con-

scription, which wasn't the case," Yi said.

He was released from custody but barred from leaving the country until at least March 2 pending an investigation. "My heart just sank when they told me that," Yi said Monday before going to discuss his case at the U.S. Embassy.

An official at the Jongno police station confirmed that Yi was being investigated for violation of the Military Service Act and said the case would be sent to the prosecutor's office. He did not provide more details.

The Justice Ministry declined to comment on Yi's situation, citing privacy laws.

Conscription confusion

Yi's plight reflects the frequent confusion of Korean-Americans due to strict conscription laws and a longtime alliance that often leads to families having ties in both countries.

South Korea, which has faced a threat from heavily armed North Korea since their 1950-53 war that ended in stalemate, requires all able-bodied men to serve at least two years in the military.

The law compels those with multiple citizenships to choose their nationality when they turn 18. If they fail to choose another nationality, they must fulfill service with South Korea.

One American man was forced into the South Korean military even though he was born in Champaign, Ill., to immigrant parents. Young Chun, who wrote a book about his experience called "The Accidental Citizen-Soldier," went to teach English for a year in South Korea in 2002, only to learn his birthplace had been mistakenly entered in the official family registry system as Seoul.

The government said Chun, then 22, had to complete his mandatory military service or face prison.

Yi was born in South Korea but said he had no idea that he was wanted in his native country when he planned the emergency trip after learning his father had died while visiting relatives here.

Overwhelming support

Yi didn't even have a passport and faced delays in getting one because government offices in Ohio were closed due to the polar vortex earlier this month. He finally arrived Feb. 3 but missed the funeral. "At least I got to visit his gravesite to say farewell," Yi said.

Following his detention, Yi spent hundreds of dollars on hotels and food as he shuffled between police and American officials to try to find a way out.

Yi is currently staying with extended family north of Seoul but is worried about his restaurant, called Tea Tree Asian Bistro, in Perrysburg, Ohio. His sister took a leave from her full-time job to

help this week, but they're going to have to scramble after that.

Yi has received an outpouring of support from his community, fellow veterans and many service-members after he posted an appeal on Facebook.

"I'm just thankful that I am getting a lot of support from my community back at home. That's keeping me going right now," he said.

Friends started a GoFundMe page that as of Tuesday had raised more than \$2,500 to help Yi.

Rep. Bob Latta, R-Ohio, said his office has "reached out to the appropriate governmental agencies to see what can be done to find a resolution."

"Because of the sensitive nature of this case, we aren't able to share specific details," Latta wrote on Twitter.

Stars and Stripes reporter Yoo Kyong Chan contributed to this report. game1.kim@stripes.com
Twitter: @kimgame1

MILITARY

US envoy: Poland base wouldn't affect Germany

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — If the United States moves forward with a plan to set up a new military base in Poland, American forces won't be pulled out of Germany to man the mission, the U.S. ambassador to NATO said Tuesday.

"It would not be at the expense of Germany," Ambassador Kay Bailey Hutchison told reporters ahead of a NATO ministerial meeting in Brussels.

On Wednesday, acting Defense Secretary Pat Shanahan will convene with his counterparts from the 29-nation alliance to discuss defense spending, the war in Afghanistan and how NATO will defend against a new Russian missile system.

The defense talks at NATO headquarters coincide with a

meeting this week on Middle East security being hosted by Poland, where Vice President Mike Pence is leading a U.S. delegation. On the sidelines, Pence is expected to hold security talks with his Polish counterparts on Warsaw's proposal to help fund a new U.S. base in the country.

The Pentagon is now reviewing the idea of basing forces in Poland, whose offer to spend up to \$2 billion on the project has piqued the interest of President Donald Trump.

In June, The Washington Post, citing unnamed administration officials, reported that the Pentagon was examining the cost and impact of pulling troops out of Germany and transferring them to Poland. However, Hutchison told a media briefing that troop cutbacks in Germany are not in the works.

"We have a very large number of forces and bases in Germany that we don't expect to change," she said.

In Brussels, allies are expected to discuss the ramifications of the U.S. decision to pull out of the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty, a move that Washington said comes in response to Moscow's development of a missile system that violates the terms of the Cold War-era pact. The treaty bans missiles with a range of between 310 and 3,400 miles. Bailey said the U.S. will now need to begin developing weapons to defend against the Russian system known as 9M729 SSC-8.

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg on Tuesday said allies need to examine possible steps to counter the Russian system.

One caveat, however, is that allies "do not intend to deploy new

ground-based nuclear missiles in Europe," he said.

"Any steps we take will be coordinated, measured and defensive," he said.

The defense ministers also will focus on efforts by allies to boost spending levels, a top NATO priority for the Trump administration.

Since 2016, European allies and Canada have spent a total of \$41 billion more on defense; by 2020, the amount in added expenditures is expected to total \$100 billion, Stoltenberg said.

"We still have work to do, but I am encouraged by the significant progress so far," he said.

Hutchison also credited allies for boosting spending and said that by 2024 most members are expected to meet a deadline that calls for all countries to dedicate 2 percent of GDP to their respective militaries.

One country that is expected

to miss the target is Germany, which projects levels to be at 1.5 percent. Trump has repeatedly singled out Berlin for failing to meet spending targets.

In Brussels, allies also will discuss the way forward in Afghanistan, where U.S.-led peace talks have raised the prospect of a possible end to the 17-year-old coalition military campaign.

"It is too early to say if there will be a (peace) deal," Stoltenberg said. "What is clear is this: We went into Afghanistan together, and together we will determine our future posture."

Hutchison added that the peace talks are "breaking new ground." "But we certainly know we are not where we need to be at this time," she said. "But we are going in the right direction."

vandiver.john@stripes.com
Twitter: @john_vandiver

Pompeo warns Eastern Europe on Chinese, Russian meddling

By MATTHEW LEE
Associated Press

BRATISLAVA, Slovakia — U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Tuesday invoked the 30th anniversary of the demise of communism to implore countries in Central and Eastern Europe to resist Chinese and Russian influence.

Speaking in the Slovak capital of Bratislava, Pompeo said China and Russia pose twin threats to the democratic and free market gains made since the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989.

He said the postcommunist countries are particularly vulnerable to Chinese and Russian predatory investment and political meddling. To combat the threat, he said, the United States is committed to boosting its engagement in the region through defense cooperation agreements and exchange programs.

"I want to make sure that the Slovakian people understand that America is engaged, we're back," he said at a brief ceremony at Slovakia's Gate of Freedom — a memorial on the banks of the Morava River at the Slovakian border with Austria that commemorates the 400 people killed at the borders of the former Czechoslovakia while attempting to escape the Iron Curtain between 1945 and 1989.

"This relationship was built on shared values, and now we must sustain it on those same, especially as Russian aggression un-



PETR DAVID JOSEK/AP

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo arrives on Tuesday at the Gate of Freedom memorial in Bratislava, Slovakia, where he urged Central and Eastern European countries to resist Chinese and Russian influence.

dermines freedom on this continent, but also against a China that represses people while it's expanding its influence abroad," he said. "We must recommit to our values again and again and again generation after generation to ensure that they live on."

Pompeo is in Slovakia on the second leg of a five-nation European tour that began in Hungary and will take him to Poland, Belgium and Iceland.

On Monday in Budapest, Pompeo warned that the United States may be forced to scale back certain operations in Europe and elsewhere if countries continue to do business with Chinese telecommunications company Huawei.

Pompeo said nations would have to consider choosing between Huawei and the United States. The warning was broad but pointedly delivered in Hungary, a NATO

ally and European Union member, where Huawei is a major player.

The U.S. has been warning countries about the risks of Chinese telecom technology as governments choose providers for the rollout of "5G" wireless internet, which will enable faster download speeds but also greater connectivity among devices.

Pompeo says the presence of Chinese telecom infrastructure could drive a technological wedge between the U.S. and some allies.

"It also makes it more difficult for America to be present," Pompeo said. "That is, if that equipment is co-located where we have important American systems, it makes it more difficult for us to partner alongside them."

"We want to make sure we identify (to) them the opportunities and the risks with using that equipment."

Pompeo raised those concerns with Hungary's nationalist prime minister, Viktor Orban, who has been criticized for seeking closer ties with Russia and China and for increasingly authoritarian rule at home.

Pompeo said he hoped to reverse what he called a decade of U.S. disengagement in Central and Eastern Europe that created a vacuum Russia and China have exploited. Over the course of the past 10 years, he said, Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese leaders have become much more aggressive in the region and made inroads.

Macedonian soldiers raise the NATO flag in front of the government building during a ceremony in Skopje on Tuesday. Macedonian authorities began removing official signs from government buildings to prepare for the country's new name: North Macedonia.

DRAGAN PERKOVSKI/AP



Macedonia raises the NATO flag ahead of name change

Associated Press

SKOPJE, Macedonia — Macedonia has raised a NATO flag at its main government building as members of the alliance continued to ratify the country's accession agreement.

Prime Minister Zoran Zaev, speaking at a ceremony in the capital, Skopje, on Tuesday, said Macedonia had achieved a "historic goal" in being accepted into NATO under its new name,

North Macedonia. The country is expected to formally adopt the name later this week.

All of NATO's 29 current members must ratify the accession, and Slovenia became the second country to do so Tuesday after Greece, which has lifted its objections to Macedonia's membership after the two countries reached a name-change deal that ended a dispute lasting nearly three decades.

WAR/MILITARY



R.J. BIERMANN/Courtesy of the U.S. Air Force

Space-A flights will resume on a trial basis at Aviano Air Base, Italy, as early as April. The route will be Baltimore to Ramstein Air Base, Germany, to Aviano and ending at Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar.

Space-A: Bus service to airport in Venice utilized after Aviano rotator was cut in 2016

FROM FRONT PAGE

The test, which is the only one TRANSCOM has planned for this year, will be used to help determine whether the ridership volume justifies permanent reinstatement of the route, Dunn said via email.

"USTRANSCOM will evaluate a possible permanent route once the proof of principle is complete," he said.

The Patriot Express program has provided flights from the United States to overseas bases since the 1960s but has undergone numerous route changes, cuts and reversals. The program runs about 20 different routes worldwide, Graff said.

The previous Aviano leg let travelers eligible to fly on AMC's Space-A program hop a flight for the low cost of an international head tax.

Space-A allows military personnel and certain categories of government civilian employees, dependents, veterans and others

to fly on military aircraft to selected airfields on standby when mission and cargo loads allow. It is often billed as a military benefit that lets servicemembers on leave travel the world for almost nothing if they're both patient and flexible. In 2017, AMC flew some 125,000 Space-A travelers, Graff said.

After the Aviano rotator was cut, the base contracted the Patriot Shuttle bus service to ferry air travelers between Aviano and Marco Polo airport. It's about an hour's drive and costs begin at 140 euro, depending on size and the number of vehicles needed.

Space-A seats were also still available from Aviano on C-130 transports to and from Ramstein, but they were less regular and availability was less predictable, officials have said.

The rotator's potential return was first announced on Facebook, where the Aviano passenger terminal said last week that the limited test-run was slated to begin in early April. Officials

were working with the Family Readiness Center on base to set up Space-A briefs as part of the welcome briefing given to newly arriving personnel, according to the online post.

One of two Feb. 5 posts said those interested in learning more can message, stop in or call the terminal. It also directed prospective travelers to the website takeahop.com to sign up for flights.

News of the returning flights was a source of happiness for some members of the Aviano community who commented on the posts to express enthusiasm, propose travel plans and ask questions.

"Glad it's potentially coming back," said Facebook user Ashley Evans. "My family is less than 2 hrs from Baltimore so perfect for me."

Chad Garland reported from Kaiserslautern, Germany. ilamas.normand@stripes.com
garland.chad@stripes.com
Twitter: @chadgarland

Ex-Gitmo inmates on Taliban negotiating team

Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — The Taliban on Tuesday announced a 14-member negotiating team ahead of talks this month with U.S. envoy Zalmay Khalilzad, who has been meeting with the insurgents to try to end America's longest war.

Sher Mohammad Abbas Stanikzai will head the Taliban team, which includes five former inmates of the U.S. prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, who were released in 2014 in exchange for U.S. Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl, who was captured by the Taliban in 2009 after wandering off his base. The team also includes Anas Haqqani, the jailed younger brother of the

leader of the Haqqani network, a powerful Taliban faction.

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said Haqqani, currently held in Kabul, "should be released to start work on the negotiating team." Mujahid said Tuesday that Haqqani "was a student at the time of his arrest and was not involved in any activity for which he should be arrested."

The Taliban have demanded Haqqani's release since talks began last year. By naming him to the negotiating team, the Haqqani network might be indicating that his release is a precondition for their participation.

The network has not been openly involved in talks with the U.S. envoy except to send three

representatives to a meeting in the United Arab Emirates in December. That meeting reportedly touched on the issue of prisoners, including Anas Haqqani and two professors from the American University in Kabul — Kevin King, an American, and Timothy Weeks, an Australian — who are believed to be held by the Haqqani network. The two professors were abducted in 2016.

The Taliban have refused to meet with the U.S.-backed government in Kabul. Afghan President Ashraf Ghani has complained bitterly about being sidelined, and it's not clear that his government would be willing to release Haqqani without being granted a larger role in the process.

Verdict is reached for petty officer in crash that killed 4

The San Diego Union-Tribune

SAN DIEGO — A jury reached a verdict Monday in the trial for a Navy petty officer who crashed off the San Diego-Coronado Bridge, killing four people in 2016 — but it will not be revealed until Wednesday.

The delay is designed to give family members of the victims time to travel to San Diego. Defendant Richard Sepolio is charged with several felony counts, including gross vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated, driving under the influence and reckless driving in the Oct. 15, 2016, crash in the Logan Heights neighborhood of San Diego.

Killed were Cruz Contreras, 52, and his wife, Annamarie Contreras, 50, of Chandler, Ariz., as well as Andre Banks, 49, and his wife, Francine Jimenez, 46, of Hacienda Heights, Calif.

According to authorities, Sepolio was starting to drive across the bridge and was going 81 mph just before he lost control of his pickup.

It launched off the bridge and plunged 40 feet into a park below, crushing two people who at the La Raza motorcycle rally, which about 3,000 people were attending.

Witnesses testified that several men rolled the truck off the victims, then hauled Sepolio out the back pickup window. He

was clutching his cellphone and, some witnesses said, smelled of alcohol.

The jury has several options. Some of the counts involve alcohol or negligence; others do not.

The panel began deliberations Jan. 31 and reached its verdict Monday morning.

During the trial, prosecution and defense lawyers presented varying blood-alcohol test results on Sepolio. The defendant testified that he had two alcoholic drinks — a hard cider and a glass of wine — during a 2½-hour lunch with a colleague from North Island Naval Air Station in Coronado. He said they took an Uber ride back to her South Park apartment and hung out for an hour before he headed home.

Defense lawyer Paul Pfingst said Sepolio was not under the influence when he drove. The attorney said four blood and breath tests, taken later that evening, showed no higher than 0.05 to 0.06 percent blood-alcohol levels. San Diego Deputy District Attorney Cally Bright said one of the test results showed a 0.07 percent to 0.08 percent blood-alcohol level.

Even with the lower level, he argued, Sepolio was still considered impaired for driving. Drivers are presumed under California law to be under the influence with a 0.08 percent blood-alcohol level or higher.

F-16 overruns Misawa runway in bad weather

BY MATTHEW M. BURKE
Stars and Stripes

An Air Force F-16 Fighting Falcon overran the runway at Misawa Air Base, Japan, on Tuesday, causing a brief closure that led to flight cancellations and delays.

The incident occurred at approximately 10:45 a.m. during a landing, said 35th Fighter Wing spokeswoman Capt. Lauren Linscott. No injuries were reported, and the aircraft was not damaged.

The fighter slightly overran the area where it was supposed to land "as a result of weather conditions," Linscott said. It never left the paved surface. Weather forecasts called for about a centimeter of snow that morning.

"This section of the airfield exists so that, in event such as this, aircraft remain safe and on a paved surface," Linscott wrote in an email to Stars and Stripes. "The pilot executed the landing according to protocol, the aircraft remained on pavement throughout the entire event and the F-16 was towed back to parking."

Runway operations were suspended for about an hour, Linscott said.

burke.matt@stripes.com

ABC
TRAVEL SERVICE

SPECIAL OFFER

Military Discounts on all flights between January - March

Military ID-Card holders & family members only

Atlanta	414 €
Dallas	409 €
Las Vegas	399 €
Tampa	438 €

Need help? Call us!

0621-72920

www.abctravel.de

Flights from January 13 to March 31, 2019 RT* from Germany. Prices starting from, including all taxes, based on availability. Get Military discount fares all year! ABC Travel Service GbR, Gönnerstrasse 5, 98339 Mannheim

MILITARY

USS Essex crew honors Marine lost in Sulu Sea

By CAITLIN DOORNBOS
Stars and Stripes

As the USS Essex sailed recently through the Sulu Sea, Marines and sailors on board solemnly paid tribute to one of their own who went overboard in the same body of water in August, the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit said in a Facebook post Tuesday.

Cpl. Jonathan Currier, 21, of New Hampshire, went missing near the Philippines the morning of Aug. 9, prompting a "Marine overboard" call on the amphibious assault ship, a 13th MEU statement said at the time.

The Marines, Navy, Coast Guard and Philippine vessels then looked for Currier through more than 13,000 square nautical miles and more than 300 flight hours before the search ended Aug. 13, according to the statement. He was

declared dead Aug. 17.

Marines at the onboard memorial ceremony this week placed personal notes to Currier into an ammunition box that was later dropped into the sea, according to the Facebook post. Photos from the service show sailors and Marines standing side by side, their heads bowed in reverence for the missing corporal.

Currier was a CH-53E Super Stallion helicopter crew chief who enlisted in 2015, the 13th MEU said in August. At the time of his disappearance, he was deployed with Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 166 Reinforced with the 13th MEU on the Essex.

A Super Stallion served as the backdrop to the memorial service on the deck of the Essex, according to photos from the event.

Marine Medium Tiltrotor



Courtesy of the U.S. Marine Corps

Marines and sailors aboard the USS Essex, shown in a photograph posted Tuesday on Facebook, remember a Marine corporal lost in the Sulu Sea in August.

Squadron 166 commander Lt. Col. Charles Bodwell thanked Marines and sailors at the ceremony for their exemplary work done in Currier's honor, according to the 13th MEU post.

"Cpl. Currier was a quiet professional who loved being part of our team and always accomplished the mission at hand," Bodwell said, according to 13th MEU. "I challenged you to finish this deployment in his image, and you did."

Currier attended boot camp

at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C., later graduating from the School of Infantry at Camp Lejeune, N.C.; the Aviation and A&C School in Pensacola, Fla.; and the Center for Naval Aviation Training in Jacksonville, N.C.

Currier was later assigned to Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 361 at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., the statement said. His awards include the National Defense Service Medal and Global War on Terrorism

Service Medal, according to the statement.

At the time of Currier's disappearance, Col. Chandler Nelms, 13th Marine Expeditionary Force commander, said in a statement that the corporal's "loss is felt by our entire [Amphibious Ready Group/MEU] family."

"He will not be forgotten," Nelms said in the statement.

doornbos.caitlin@stripes.com
Twitter: @CaitlinDoornbos

Air Force calls for culture change in bid to reduce suicides

By BRIAN FERGUSON
Stars and Stripes

Air Force senior leaders issued a memo calling for a culture change after a total of 11 airmen and Air Force civilians died by suicide in the first four weeks of 2019.

The number of suicides within the ranks has remained relatively flat in recent years. However, the service wants to do more to bring the suicide rate down, stated a Feb. 5 memo signed by Secretary of the Air Force Heather Wilson, Chief of Staff of the Air Force Gen. David Goldfein and Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Kaleth Wright.

In January, five active-duty airmen, four civilian employees, one Air National Guard member and one reservist died by suicide, according to data provided to Stars and Stripes by the Air Force.

In the first quarter of 2018, the Air Force had 11 servicemember suicide deaths, a Pentagon report found last year. The report did not include civilian deaths.

"We expect each of us to know what resources are available, help those in need and stand alongside our wingmen throughout a crisis or challenge."

U.S. Air Force senior leaders
in a Feb. 5 memo

The memo urged airmen to work toward preventing suicide deaths by supporting one another and seeking assistance if needed.

"We need an Air Force culture where it is more common to seek help than to try to go it at alone," the memo stated. "We expect each of us to know what resources are available, help those in need and stand alongside our wingmen throughout a crisis or challenge. No one is alone, and we are all valued members of our Air Force family."

The memo comes as other services have struggled to limit suicides in their ranks in recent years. The Navy, which is the only

service that publishes its suicide rates online, has seen steady increases in its active-duty suicide rate since 2015. The online data dating to 2006 shows that last year's 68 active-duty Navy suicides marked the service's highest number in more than a decade.

Meanwhile, the number of suicides and assisted suicides among active-duty Marines hit a 10-year high, according to data from Marine Corps Manpower and Reserve Affairs. The Marine Corps counted 44 verified and 13 suspected suicides in the active-duty force and an additional 18 verified and

suspected in the Reserve, for a total of 75. The Army lost 138 active-duty soldiers, 115 Army National Guard and 47 Army reservists to suicide. That marks almost no change from 2017, and an Army spokeswoman said last month that more work must be done to continue the service's progress in reducing the numbers.

The Air Force recorded 101 servicemember and civilian employee suicides last year, consistent with the annual number for the past five years — which has hovered at about 100.

The service's leadership is not satisfied with "flat-lined" numbers and is committed to supporting airmen and their families with the aim of "never losing another airman to suicide," Brig. Gen. Michael E. Martin, director of Air Force Resilience, said in a statement.

Military personnel who need help can call the Veterans Crisis Line at 800-273-8255 and press 1 for assistance, or text 838255.

ferguson.brian@stripes.com

2 S. Korea-based soldiers found dead, one in barracks, another on leave

By KIM GAMEL
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — The Army was investigating the deaths of two South Korea-based soldiers, including one found unresponsive in his barracks and the other while on leave in Nebraska. Both joined the service less than a year ago.

Pvt. Clayton N. Cepeda, 19, a Guam native, was pronounced dead Sunday after he was found in his room at Camp Humphreys, the Army said. It added that the circumstances surrounding his death were under investigation.

Cepeda, a water purification specialist,

joined the Army in June 2018 at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, and was assigned to A Company, 602nd Aviation Support Battalion, 2nd Infantry Division, according to a press release.



Cepeda

Battalion commander Lt. Col. Jonathan Easley expressed condolences to the family and friends of Cepeda, whose awards and decorations include the Korean Defense Service Medal,

the Army Service Ribbon and the Overseas Service Ribbon.

"The Warhorse team is deeply saddened by the loss of our friend and comrade," Easley said. "We are forever grateful for the commitment he made to his nation, his choice to serve forward in Korea and the enthusiasm he brought to every mission."

Separately, the Army said a soldier stationed at Camp Henry, South Korea, was found dead Feb. 5 while on leave in Valley, Neb. The cause was under investigation.

Pvt. Aaron Mitchell, 21, was a mortuary affairs specialist assigned to the 498th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, U.S. Army Materiel Support Command

Korea, 19th Expeditionary Sustainment Command.

Mitchell joined the Army in May 2018 and deployed to Camp Henry in October.

"We are deeply saddened by the loss of Pvt. Aaron Mitchell," 498th CSSB commander Lt. Col. Karen Baker said in a statement. "His death affects every member in our formation. We send our deepest condolences to the family, loved ones and friends of Pvt. Mitchell. Our thoughts are with them during this difficult time."

Mitchell's awards and decorations include the National Defense Service Medal.

gamel.kim@stripes.com
Twitter: @kimgamel

WAR/MILITARY



U.S.-backed Syrian Democratic Forces fighters look at smoke rising from a shell that targeted Islamic State militants in the village of Baghouz, Deir El-Zour, eastern Syria, in this frame grab from video provided Tuesday by the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

US strikes ISIS-held mosque

By BASSEM MROUE
Associated Press

BEIRUT — The U.S. military said Tuesday it struck a mosque that had allegedly been used as an Islamic State control center as American-allied Syrian forces battled the extremists in their last stronghold in eastern Syria amid reports of more civilian casualties.

The U.S.-led coalition said warplanes struck the mosque in the small town of Baghouz on Monday in support of the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces. It said the airstrike occurred as ISIS was using the mosque to direct attacks and deploy suicide car bombs against the SDF.

"This mosque lost its protected status when ISIS deliberately chose to use it as a command and control center," said the coalition's deputy commander, Maj. Gen. Christopher Ghika.

Hundreds of mostly foreign ISIS fighters are believed to remain in Baghouz and nearby areas, where the SDF began its final push Saturday after months of fighting. ISIS has been fighting back with suicide car bombs, sniper fire and booby traps, and has been using civilians as human shields, slowing the U.S.-backed fighters' advance.

Syrian state media reported that about 70 people were killed or wounded in an airstrike by the U.S.-led coalition on the edge of Baghouz. It said the airstrike hit a settlement where hundreds of people were taking shelter from the fighting.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a war monitor, said seven children and eight women were killed late Monday in an airstrike near Baghouz. It was not immediately clear if they were referring to the same event.

Col. Sean Ryan, a coalition spokesman said "we are aware of open source reports of alleged civilian casualties. We take all allegations of civilian casualties seriously, and understand there is a lot of misinformation as well."

He added that "there are multiple actors conducting strikes within the area, so we are looking into it."

Syrian government forces and their allies have in the past shelled the ISIS-held area. Iraqi forces have struck ISIS targets in Syria from across the border.

At least 20,000 civilians have fled the last sliver of ISIS-controlled territory in just the past few weeks. The numbers have overwhelmed Kurdish-run camps in northeastern Syria, where humanitarian conditions are already dire amid a cold winter and meager resources.

Shanahan in Iraq to discuss US presence

By ROBERT BURNS
Associated Press

BAGHDAD — The top Pentagon official arrived in Baghdad on Tuesday to consult with American military commanders and Iraqi government leaders on the future U.S. troop presence in Iraq.

Pat Shanahan, the acting secretary of defense, said before his unannounced trip that he wanted to hear first-hand about the state of Iraq's fight against remnants of Islamic State. Shanahan, who is on his first visit to Iraq, is also to meet with Prime Minister Adel Abdul-Mahdi.

In remarks to reporters after leaving Washington on Sunday, Shanahan declined to say whether he would propose that additional U.S. special operations troops be brought to Iraq to, in effect, compensate for a pullout from Syria to begin within weeks.

The U.S. has about 5,200 troops in Iraq to train and advise its security forces, 16 years after the U.S. invaded to topple Saddam Hussein.

President Donald Trump upset Iraqis by saying earlier this month that U.S. forces should use their Iraqi positions to keep an eye on neighboring Iran. That is not the stated U.S. mission in Iraq, and Iraqi



Shanahan

officials have said Trump's proposal would violate the Iraqi constitution.

Trump also has angered Iraqi politicians by arguing that he would keep U.S. troops in Iraq and use the country as a base from which to strike extremists in Syria if necessary after the 2,000 troops now in Syria depart in coming weeks.

Curbing foreign influence has become a hot-button issue in Iraq after parliamentary elections last year in which Shiite politicians backed by Iran made significant gains. Meanwhile, Shiite militias that fought alongside U.S.-backed Iraqi government troops against ISIS in recent years gained outside influence along the way.

This political tension formed the backdrop to Shanahan's visit, which marks his first time in Iraq.

He took over as the acting Pentagon chief after Jim Mattis resigned as defense secretary in December. It's unclear whether Trump will nominate Shanahan for Senate confirmation.

Inhofe: Troops not leaving Syria, Afghanistan yet

By CLAUDIA GRISALES
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Sen. Jim Inhofe, R-Okla., chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, said Tuesday that he doesn't foresee troops leaving Syria or Afghanistan until conditions on the ground are right.

Inhofe also said he's talked with President Donald Trump on his objections on any time-based withdrawals, and that anyone who claims to have a date of withdrawal doesn't know what they are talking about.

"It should have been conditions on the ground from the beginning for any place where we have troops," Inhofe said during a wide-ranging discussion with reporters in Capitol Hill.

Inhofe also told reporters that acting Defense Secretary Pat Shanahan won't get the post permanently, and that he's fighting the use of military construction funds for the U.S.-Mexico border wall and continues to push for a \$750 billion defense budget in the next fiscal year.

On Syria, the senator said, "I think what is going to happen is that we'll leave ample troops in there."

But Inhofe later told reporters that it's possible troops could be withdrawn in the coming year.

The comments add to the back-and-forth saga of when troops might leave Syria and Afghanistan after Trump raised the specter of quick troop withdrawals in both countries in recent months.

On Dec. 19, Trump stunned Capitol Hill and the Pentagon with a decision to withdraw the roughly 2,000 U.S. troops fighting Islamic State in Syria within 30 days. The next day, reports suggested Trump was also planning to draw down 7,000 troops in Afghanistan.

Since that time, former Defense Secretary Jim Mattis resigned and was replaced by Shanahan, his then-deputy. The Trump administration has also backed off plans for immediate troop withdrawals or drawdowns in either country.

Last week, the Senate defied Trump's plan to withdraw troops in Syria and Afghanistan, voting 70 to 26 to reaffirm the U.S. commitment to the countries through an amendment from Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell attached to a larger legislative package.

Inhofe said Tuesday that when he wants to get Trump's attention on what he thinks is a wrong move, the senator will signal that it is something former President Barack Obama would have done.

"I'm a fan of the president's ... but I've debated this with him before ... before we had that (vote), I was saying everything has got to be (based on) conditions on the ground," he said. "I just don't think anyone is going to be able to say today how many troops will be coming out or when they are going to be coming out."

Inhofe also said he doesn't foresee Shanahan getting nominated permanently to the post or reaching a confirmation hearing but he also doesn't want to set a deadline for selecting a new defense secretary. One issue, Inhofe said, is Shanahan's strong ties to Boeing, where he worked for 30 years.

"Every time someone has any kind of background whether it's Boeing or regardless of what company it is, there's going to be kind of a built-in suspicion and I would say this will become very partisan," he said.

The senator also said Shanahan isn't as humble as his predecessor. And while Inhofe wouldn't divulge potential defense secretary candidates, he did say he hopes the next Pentagon leader has some of the traits of Mattis.

"[Mattis] had a very rare talent and it's called humility, and I'd like that to have that rub off on somebody else," said Inhofe, who described Mattis as a close friend.

Inhofe said he talked with Trump about the next defense secretary as the president was returning from his first trip to Iraq.

Inhofe also expressed objections to Trump declaring a national emergency to pull funds from military construction, though the senator was more open to the idea of pulling money from the Army Corps of Engineers.

"If it becomes necessary, I think that he might do the emergency," Inhofe said. "What I have voiced is if it has to be that way, leave [military construction funds] alone."

Since December, Trump has threatened a national emergency to use the military's available construction funds and personnel to build a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border.

Inhofe also said he continues to push for a \$750 billion defense budget. That figure has become a moving target since Trump suggested cuts last year. But since that time, White House officials have signaled they are open to increasing the budget.

Inhofe said he supports that base budget and a larger overseas contingency operations fund.

"In my opinion, you need to be at \$750," Inhofe said of the overall Pentagon budget.

grisales.claudia@starsandstripes.com
Twitter: @cgrisales

MILITARY

USAF offers bonus to keep EOD specialists

By ROSE L. THAYER
Stars and Stripes

AUSTIN, Texas — The Air Force is offering bonuses up to \$75,000 to entice the top enlisted ranks of explosive ordnance disposal airmen to delay retirement and remain on the job, according to a recent announcement by the Air Force's Personnel Center.

Retaining the experience and knowledge gained from their years on the job will ensure the small career field remains strong, said Capt. Carrie Volpe, a spokeswoman for the Air Force secretary. Because of the field's stressful mission of detecting and disarming bombs and heavy deployment rotation, Volpe said it can be difficult to keep enough senior enlisted EOD airmen to mentor and lead younger ranks.

"The high operational tempo and combat intensity experienced by the EOD career field make it difficult to stabilize manning

at sustainable levels for senior noncommissioned officers," she said. "The experience [senior NCOs] provide is key to executing the Air Force mission by ensuring highly trained and qualified (regular Air Force) airmen for the future."

The bonus amount is \$30,000 for a three-year service agreement, \$50,000 for four years and \$75,000 for five years, according to an Air Force news release. The offer took effect Jan. 29 and can't be authorized retroactively.

Officials set a goal for the incentive to retain about 40 personnel in fiscal year 2019, which ends Sept. 30. Offering the bonuses required an exception to a policy. Typically, selective retention bonuses are not available to enlisted regular Air Force airmen with more than 20 years of active service or if the airmen will complete 24 years of active service before the end of the contract including the bonus, Volpe said.

Retaining the experience of these senior leaders helps ensure the future strength and stability of the Air Force, she said.

EOD is the only occupation where this waiver is available now, and eligible service members can't have served more than 25 years of active duty. About 1,290 of the more than 321,440 active-duty airmen are part of this small career field, based on information from the personnel center. As the Air Force's bomb squad, those airmen are trained to detect, disarm, detonate and dispose of explosive threats all over the world.

"Promoting younger NCOs may improve manning levels but won't replace the lost experience, which would cause a ripple effect throughout the force for years to come," Volpe said. "Senior NCOs have a wealth of knowledge that comes from their vast experience in both job performance and leadership. Those attributes are vital to train, manage and lead the upcoming airmen entering the

EOD career field."

Edgar Holt, re-enlistments program manager at the Air Force's Personnel Center, said this type of bonus is intended to encourage qualified enlisted personnel to re-enlist in areas, such as EOD with this one, where there are retention shortfalls or when there are high training costs associated with losing experienced personnel.

"The (selective retention bonus) program is a monetary incentive paid to airmen serving in certain selected critical military skills or re-enlist for additional obligated service," Holt said.

For more information on the program, visit the myPers website or contact your local Military Personnel Flight Career Development section.

thayer.rose@stripes.com
Twitter: @Rose_Lori

US Army civilian faces investigation after fatal stabbing of home invader

By JOHN VANDIVER
AND MARCUS KLOECKNER
Stars and Stripes

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — An Army civilian who fought off home invaders with a kitchen knife during an attempted robbery is facing an investigation into whether he acted in self-defense when he fatally stabbed one of the perpetrators, German authorities said Tuesday.

After dark on Sunday, four men rang the doorbell, then pushed their way into the American family's Landstuhl home, prompting the 41-year-old Army civilian to fight back, the Zweibrücken prosecutor's office said in a statement.

"The family's father used a kitchen knife, among other things, to defend himself and injured one of the perpetrators with several stabs," the statement read.

Police said they must determine whether the father of three acted in self-defense or used excessive force in his response.

Prosecutor Iris Weingardt could not say how long the probe will take. Facts needed to be gathered and "only then can a legal evaluation follow," Weingardt said.

In Germany, if a person is convicted of inflicting bodily harm that

causes death, prison sentences are typically "not under three years," she said.

The police account of the break-in, however, suggests the American family was threatened during the confrontation. The man and his spouse suffered minor injuries when the attackers stormed into their home, investigators said. Their three children, who were at home at the time, were unhurt.

The American's resistance forced the burglars to flee, the prosecutor's office said.

The burglars fled by car but stopped in the village of Krickenbach, about 15 kilometers southeast of Landstuhl. They laid the 43-year-old injured man on the sidewalk. One of the men, the older brother of the injured man, asked a witness to call for medical help, officials said.

The wounded man died at the scene from blood loss related to puncture wounds, investigators said, citing an autopsy report. His 51-year-old brother was arrested and charged with attempted robbery. Police continue to search for the other two suspects who fled the scene.

vandiver.john@stripes.com
Twitter: @john_vandiver

Drill sergeant pleads guilty in crash that killed 2 recruits

Associated Press

FORT JACKSON, S.C. — A drill sergeant at Fort Jackson in South Carolina pleaded guilty to accidentally killing two recruits who were marching in front of his vehicle in 2017.

The Post and Courier reported Andrew Martin testified Monday that he was running on four hours of sleep while driving a truck behind a group of marching

U.S. Army recruits. He said he fell asleep and awoke to screams.

Pvt. Ethan Shrader, of Tennessee, and Pvt. Timothy Ashcraft, of Ohio, were pinned beneath the truck and later died. Other recruits were critically injured. A 2018 Army report partly blamed Marrow's superiors for his exhaustion.

Marrow pleaded guilty to dereliction of duty and negligent homicide and could face prison as well as a dishonorable discharge.



OLIVIA G. ORTIZ/Courtesy of the U.S. Marine Corps

Cold weather training

Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. Robert B. Neller, left, speaks with Marines after an exercise in Bridgeport, Calif., on Monday. Neller observed mountain warfare cold weather training and discussed ways to optimize training.

As Arizona base's roster of F-35s increases, so do noise complaints

Associated Press

GLENDALE, Ariz. — Luke Air Force Base's roster of F-35s has grown and that means more noise around the pilot-training installation on the west side of metro Phoenix.

The base now has 85 F-35s, well en route to its planned full complement of 144, and the base in January reached a milestone of more than 1,000 flights from the base in one month, the Arizona Republic reported.

January also saw the base record a dramatic increase in noise complaints from people living around the base in Glendale.

Luke spokeswoman Becky Heyse wouldn't provide the specific number of complaints in January but said the number so far in February seemed more normal.

Luke had said in late 2018 there were about 80 in all of that year.

Heyse said Luke officials are asking residents for their continuing support. "The program has been as successful as it has been because we have this community support," she said.

F-35s are louder than the F-16s that long-time residents living near Luke may have been used to, but Heyse said Luke officials can only guess why complaints jumped in January.

Those guesses include considering that it was colder, and planes sound louder when it's cold. The base shut down one of two runways for construction in January, which may have changed what certain residents heard. And there weren't as many flights taking place in December during the holidays, so in January residents may have been more inclined to notice when flights picked back up again.

Surprise City Councilman Chris Judd, who has lived near Luke for about 15 years, said he hasn't noticed an increase in flights lately. He said noise from the flights is "just part of living" in the area.

NATION

GOP not unified, but Hill leaders like deal

BY ANDREW TAYLOR AND ALAN FRAM
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — GOP congressional leaders on Tuesday swung behind a hard-on agreement to prevent a new government shutdown and finance construction of more barriers along the U.S.-Mexico border, selling it as a necessary compromise even as some Republicans on the right voice opposition.

It's not clear whether President Donald Trump will support the deal, although GOP negotiators said they were hopeful.

Top Republicans Mitch McConnell in the Senate and Kevin McCarthy in the House both claimed victory, crowing about Democratic concessions on new border barriers and a late-stage battle over the ability of federal authorities to arrest and detain immigrants living illegally in the U.S.

"You've got to remember when Nancy Pelosi was. She has said, 'No money for a wall.' That's not the case," McCarthy said on CNBC Tuesday morning. "The Democrats have now agreed to more than 55 miles of new barrier."

However, negotiators said it's pretty much the deal that Trump could get today in December. Aides revealed details under condition of anonymity because the agreement is tentative.

Republicans and the White House were desperate to avoid another bruising shutdown. They tentatively agreed Monday night to far less money for Trump's border wall than the White House's \$5.7 billion wish list, settling for a figure of nearly \$1.4 billion, according to congressional aides. The huge funding measure, which combines seven spending bills into one, runs through the fiscal year, which ends on Sept. 30.

Details might not be released until Wednesday, but the pact came in time to alleviate any threat of a second partial government shutdown this weekend.

At the White House on Tuesday, spokesman Hogan Gidley was noncommittal, saying: "We want to focus on what's actually in the document. Until we see that, it's going to be very difficult to have a conversation about what we will and won't accept."

The agreement means 55 miles of new fencing — constructed through existing designs such as metal slats instead of a concrete wall — but far less than the 215 miles the White House demanded in December. The fencing would be built in the Rio Grande Valley in Texas. It closely mirrors Trump's original budget request from last winter.

The split-the-differences compromise contains plenty to anger lawmakers on the right. "I don't want to see another shutdown, but many Democrats would like and too little for conservative Republicans — but its authors praised it as a genuine compromise that would keep the government open and allow everyone to move on."

With the government being shut down, the prospect of another shutdown fencing that would brought us back together I thought to night was we didn't want that to happen" again, said Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Richard Shelby, R-Ala.

"Our staffs are just working out the details," said House Appropriations Committee Chairman Newt Lundy, D-N.Y.

The pact also includes increases for new technologies such as advanced screening at border entry points, humanitarian aid sought by Democrats and additional customs officers.

On the weekend, Shelby pulled the plug on the talks over Democratic demands

to limit immigrant detentions by federal authorities, frustrating some of his fellow negotiators, but Democrats yielded ground on that issue in a fresh round of talks on Monday.

Asked if Trump would back the deal, Shelby said: "We believe from our dealings with them and the latitude they've given us, they will support it. We certainly hope so."

But Fox News Channel's Sean Hannity, a Trump ally, said the barrier money in the agreement was inadequate. He warned late Monday that "any Republican that supports this garbage compromise, you will have to explain." Conservatives like Rep. Mark Meadows, R-N.C., who has the ear of Trump, also came out in opposition.

"I would not want to see Hannity and all the other people you mentioned aren't running this government. This was a bipartisan deal, Senate and House, Republican and Democrat," Democrat Lowey said on CNN.

Trump traveled to El Paso, Texas, for a campaign-style rally Monday night focused on immigration and border issues. He has been adamant that Congress approve money for a wall along the Mexican border, though he no longer repeats his 2016 mantra that Mexico will pay for it, and he took to the stage as lawmakers back in Washington were announcing their breakthrough.

"They said that progress is being made with this committee," Trump told his audience, referring to the congressional bargainers. "Just so you know, we're building the wall anyway."

Trump aides are discussing using executive action to access other pots of money to build the wall without Congress, even if Trump backs the compromise.

"We'll take as much money as you can give us, and then we will go off and find the money someplace else — legally — in order to secure that southern barrier," acting White House Chief of Staff Mick Mulvaney told Fox News on Friday. He said more than \$5.7 billion had been identified that Trump could tap.

Democrats carried more leverage into the talks after besting Trump on the 35-day shutdown but showed flexibility in hopes of winning Trump's signature. After yielding on border barriers, Democrats focused on reducing funding for detention beds to curb what they see as unnecessarily harsh enforcement by Immigration and Customs Enforcement, or ICE.

The agreement yielded curbed funding, overall, for ICE detention beds, which Democrats promised would be cut. The agency would hold fewer detainees than the roughly 49,000 detainees held on Feb. 10, the most recent date for which figures were available. Democrats said the number of beds would be ratcheted down to 40,520 by year's end.

By curbing the cap at 16,500 the number of detainees caught in areas away from the border — a limit Democrats say was aimed at preventing overreach by the agency — ran into its own Republican wall.

Democrats dropped the demand in the Monday round of talks, and the mood in the Senate shifted accordingly.

The recent shutdown left more than 800,000 government workers without paychecks and sent Trump's poll numbers tumbling. As support in his own party began to splinter, Trump surrendered after the shutdown hit 35 days, agreeing to the current temporary reopening without getting money for the wall.



Eric Gay/AP

President Donald Trump speaks during a rally Monday in El Paso, Texas.

Trump, O'Rourke rally both sides of wall debate in Texas

BY JILL COLVIN AND WILL WEISSERT
Associated Press

EL PASO, Texas — President Donald Trump charged ahead with his pledge to build a wall at the U.S.-Mexico border, skimming over the details of lawmakers' tentative deal that would give him far less than he's been demanding and declaring he's "setting the stage" to deliver on his signature campaign promise.

In the first dueling rallies of the 2020 campaign season, Trump's "Finish the Wall" rally in El Paso went head-to-head Monday night against counterprogramming by Beto O'Rourke, a former Democratic congressman and potential Trump rival in 2020, who argued that walls cause more problems than they solve.

The rallies across the street from each other served as a preview of the heated years-long fight over the direction of the country. And they made clear that Trump's long-promised border wall is sure to play an outsized role in the presidential race as both sides use it to try to rally their supporters and highlight their contrasting approaches.

Standing in a packed stadium under a giant American flag and banners saying "FINISH THE WALL," Trump insisted that large portions of the project are already under construction and vowed to fulfill his 2016 campaign promise regardless of what happens in Congress.

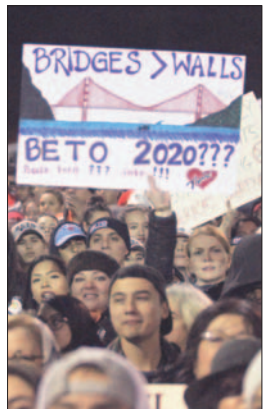
"Walls work," said Trump, whose rally was repeatedly interrupted by protesters. "Walls save lives."

O'Rourke, meanwhile, held a counter-march with dozens of local civic, human rights and Hispanic groups in his hometown, followed by a protest rally attended by thousands on a baseball field within shouting distance from the arena where Trump spoke.

"With the eyes of the country upon us, all of us together are going to make our stand here in one of the safest cities in America," O'Rourke said. "Safe not because of walls but in spite of walls."

More than a half-hour into his rally, Trump had scarcely mentioned immigration, offering just a passing suggestion that those chanting "Build the Wall" switch to "Finish the Wall." Instead, he mocked O'Rourke, insisting the Texan has "very little going for himself except he's got a great first name" and deriding his crowd size, even though both men drew thousands.

"That may be the end of his presidential bid," Trump quipped, adding, "You're supposed to win in order to run."



RUDY GUTIERREZ/AP

People attend a rally for former Rep. Beto O'Rourke, D-Texas, outside the El Paso County Coliseum where Trump was holding his rally on Monday.

The rallies began moments after negotiators on Capitol Hill announced that lawmakers had reached an agreement in principle to fund the government ahead of a midnight Friday deadline to avoid another shutdown.

But Trump appeared oblivious to the deal, saying that he'd been informed by aides that negotiators had made some progress but that he had declined to be fully briefed because he wanted to go on stage.

"I had a choice. I could've stayed out there and listened, or I could have come out to the people of El Paso, and Texas, I chose you," Trump said. "So we probably have some good news. But who knows?"

The countermarch began a mile from the baseball field in the shadow of Trump's rally, its participants streaming past part of the border and the metal slats lining it. Marchers waved signs reading "Fire the Liar," "Hate Is Not What Makes America Great" and "Make Tacos, Not Walls."

NATION

Former astronaut announces Senate bid

By JONATHAN J. COOPER
Associated Press

PHOENIX — Retired astronaut Mark Kelly, who rocketed to the national spotlight when his Congresswoman wife Gabrielle Giffords was shot in a failed assassination attempt, announced Tuesday he's running to finish John McCain's last term in the U.S. Senate.

Kelly is a top Democratic recruit to take on Republican Martha McSally in one of the most closely contested Senate races of the 2020 election.

McSally is a former Republican congresswoman who was appointed to McCain's seat last year after she narrowly

lost to Democrat Kyrsten Sinema. McSally leaned heavily on her record as the first woman to fly a combat mission as a fighter pilot, but she was hurt by her embrace of President Donald Trump.

If Kelly is nominated, the race would pit a Navy veteran and astronaut against a trailblazing Air Force pilot in the contest to replace McCain, a legendary Navy flyer who was famously shot down and held captive.

Democrats are eagerly watching the Arizona contest, having already defeated McSally in a Senate race a few months ago.

Kelly and Giffords have for years pushed Congress to enact gun control measures, with little success. They shifted their focus



Kelly

to state legislatures in recent years, helping to strengthen background checks and domestic violence protections, among other modest protections.

Gov. Doug Ducey appointed McSally to the vacant Senate seat after his first appointee, former Sen. Jon Kyl, resigned after only a few months in office. The seat is a top target for Democrats because McSally just lost a Senate race in November and Democrats posted a strong showing in the

November election, winning three statewide contests and picking up legislative and congressional seats.

The 2020 election will decide who finishes the last two years of McCain's term. The winner would have to run again for a full six-year term in 2022.

U.S. Rep. Ruben Gallego, of Phoenix, is also considering a Senate run, which would likely set up a tough fight for the Democratic nomination.

Former Arizona Attorney General Grant Woods, a lifelong Republican who became a Democrat and a fierce critic of Trump, announced last week that he won't run, saying he didn't want to fight in a contested Democratic primary.

Drug extends lives of brain cancer patients

By RILEY GRIFFIN
Bloomberg

Patients with the same aggressive brain cancer that killed Sen. John McCain, R, Ariz., saw survival time double after being treated with Merck & Co.'s blockbuster immunotherapy drug Keytruda before surgery to remove a tumor.

Researchers at the University of California at Los Angeles seeking new treatments for the cancer called recurrent glioblastoma, found that patients who were treated with Keytruda before the removal of a brain tumor survived an average of 417 days — nearly double the historic average for the deadly disease.

The results are the first findings to suggest that a class of cancer treatments called checkpoint inhibitors, which unleash the immune system to attack malignant cells, benefit glioblastoma patients. Although the clinical trial evaluated only 35 patients and didn't have a control group, the results will arm scientists with information to launch new trials.

"Everyone is very excited," said Robert Prins, a professor of neurosurgery at UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center and senior author of the study. "It's the first signal we've seen of the clinical benefit, but we don't want to jump to conclusions that we've cured this kind of tumor. What it did was give us important information about the timing of treatment mattered."

Prins said the study wasn't designed to look at survival but rather to better understand how

immunotherapy affects a brain tumor. Of the 35 patients evaluated, 16 received the immunotherapy both before and after surgery, while 19 received the treatment only after the operation.

Patients who received treatment only after surgery didn't see much benefit, surviving an average of 228 days, which is in line with the current expectancy.

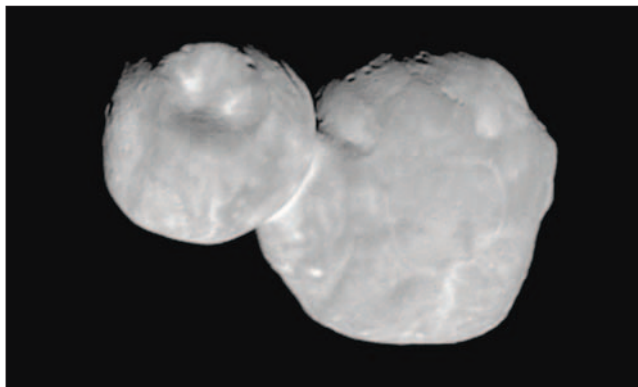
Due to the success of the trial, Prins and his colleagues said they've reached an agreement with Merck to expand the presurgery immunotherapy treatment to an additional 25 patients within the first half of the year. In other clinical trials, melanoma and lung cancer patients have also seen a prolonged lifespan following presurgery treatment, according to the researchers.

Merck has seen Keytruda sales boom to more than \$7 billion a year amid an increasingly competitive market for innovative treatments that target many types of cancer. The drug has slugged it out with Bristol Myers Squibb Co.'s Opdivo as both companies vie for the market lead in immuno-oncology. Pfizer Inc., GlaxoSmithKline Plc and Novartis AG are also investing heavily in cancer therapies.

Prins said the Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center is looking to treat recurrent glioblastoma patients with Bristol-Myers' Opdivo, as well.

"Currently, there is no true standard of care for recurrent glioblastoma," Prins said.

"But we are believers in immunotherapy."



NASA, JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY APPLIED PHYSICS LABORATORY, SOUTHWEST RESEARCH INSTITUTE/AP

The Kuiper belt object Ultima Thule, about 1 billion miles beyond Pluto, was photographed during an encounter with the New Horizons spacecraft earlier this year.

Photos offer new perspective on NASA's faraway space snowman

Associated Press

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — The faraway space snowman visited by NASA last month has a surprisingly flat — not round — behind.

New photos from the New Horizons spacecraft offer a new perspective on the small cosmic body 4 billion miles away. The two-lobed object, nicknamed Ultima Thule, is actually flatter on the

backside than originally thought, according to scientists.

Pictures released late last week — taken shortly after closest approach on New Year's Day — provide an outline of the side not illuminated by the sun.

When viewed from the front, Ultima Thule still resembles a two-ball snowman. But from the side, the snowman looks squashed, sort of like a lemon and pie stuck together, end to end.

"Seeing more data has significantly changed our view," Southwest Research Institute's Alan Stern, the lead scientist, said in a statement. "It would be closer to reality to say Ultima Thule's shape is flatter, like a pancake. But more importantly, the new images are creating scientific puzzles about how such an object could even be formed. We've never seen something like this orbiting the sun."

New York jury convicts notorious Mexican drug lord 'El Chapo'

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Mexico's most notorious drug lord, Joaquín "El Chapo" Guzmán, was convicted Tuesday of running an industrial-scale smuggling operation after a three-month trial packed with Hollywood-style tales of grisly killings, political payoffs, cocaine hidden in jalapeño cans, jewel-

encrusted guns and a naked escape with his mistress through a tunnel.

Guzmán, 61, faced a drumbeat of drug-trafficking and conspiracy convictions that could put the escape artist behind bars for decades in a maximum-security U.S. prison selected to thwart another one of the breakouts that embarrassed his native country.

New York jurors whose identities were kept secret reached a verdict after deliberating six days, sorting through what authorities called an "avalanche" of evidence gathered since the late 1980s that Guzmán and his murderous Sinaloa drug cartel made billions in profits by smuggling tons of cocaine, heroin, meth and marijuana into the U.S. Evidence showed drugs poured

into the U.S. through secret tunnels or hidden in tanker trucks, concealed in the undercarriage of passenger cars and packed in rail cars passing through legitimate points of entry.

The prosecution's case against Guzmán, a roughly 5½-foot figure whose nickname translates to "Shorty," included the testimony of several turncoats and other

witnesses.

One Sinaloa insider testified how Guzmán sometimes acted as his own hitman, punishing a Sinaloa who dared to work for another cartel by kidnapping him, beating and shooting him and having his men bury the victim while he was still alive, gasping for air.

The defense case lasted just half an hour.

NATION

Healing through advocacy

Woman whose daughter was slain in Florida school massacre now works to make schools safer

By KELLI KENNEDY

Associated Press

PARKLAND, Fla. — Every morning, Lori Alhadeff makes breakfast for her two boys, gets dressed and sprays on her daughter's Victoria's Secret perfume.

The scent is part of her armor, propelling her through her whirlwind of a day as she fields hundreds of emails and juggles two phones, a constant reminder of why she ran for and won a seat on the local school board, and started a foundation to make schools safer. Why she called out President Donald Trump in a televised, gut-wrenching tirade.

"I smell Alyssa," Lori Alhadeff said, "so I feel like she's more a part of me."

A year ago, Alyssa Alhadeff, 14, was one of 17 people killed by a gunman who stalked the halls of Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. Now, her mother keeps up a dizzying pace of advocacy, insisting that it helps her handle the grief, though there is the sense that if she ever allowed herself to stop she would be swallowed whole by sorrow.

"For me, it's honestly still 2/14/18," she said through tears that often come as she remembers her daughter. "It's not really set in that this is a reality for me. I feel that Alyssa is still coming home. She's at her soccer game and she's still going to walk through this door."

Day of shooting

When word of the shootings spread on that Valentine's Day a year ago, Alhadeff rushed to the high school with her husband, Ian, and best friend, Emily Price. The other students, running from the school, told them Alyssa had been shot.

They split up and went in vain to different hospitals, looking for Alyssa without success. The Alhadeffs spent an agonizing night at a hotel.

The next morning, morgue workers would not allow them to their see their daughter. All they would show them was a photo of Alyssa's face.

"That's when I knew with 100 percent certainty that Alyssa was killed," her mother said.

Alyssa had tried to hide under a table in her English class. The gunman, armed with an AR-15 style semi-automatic rifle, sprayed bullets through a window. Alyssa was shot 10 times, in the heart, on the top of her head and in her femoral artery — her "soccer leg," her mom said.

The Alhadeffs would finally be reunited with their daughter as they planned her funeral.

"Her body was really cold," Alhadeff recalled. She tried to warm Alyssa with her hands, "to bring her back to life." She clipped locks of the girl's long, brown hair, to keep,



PHOTOS BY BRYNN ANDERSON/AP

Above: Lori Alhadeff, mother of Alyssa Alhadeff, 14, who was one of 17 people killed at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, speaks during an interview Jan. 30. Below: Much of her daughter's bedroom remains untouched.



Seething, she asked her husband to drive her to the park where students and media had gathered. She approached a line of reporters.

She did not know what to say. But she felt compelled to speak.

"A crazy person just walks right into the school, knocked on the window of my child's door and starts shooting, shooting her and

killing her," she screamed. "President Trump, you say what you do, you can stop the guns from getting into these children's hands, put metal detectors at every entrance to the school."

CNN captured the moment live. Her rage was so overwhelming, her grief so palpable, that for a moment the shaken anchor strug-

gled to speak. The outburst would be seen worldwide.

After the funeral, Alhadeff's grief quickly turned to action.

A 44-year-old former teacher, Alhadeff started Make Our Schools Safe, aiming to harden schools against intruders and to train students and teachers so they know how to respond. Test scores

don't matter, she said, if kids don't come home alive.

She and her husband marched with Parkland students in Washington, demanding gun control. And in May, she was elected to the school board.

"I have to keep pressing forward. I know that I can't bring Alyssa back but ... if I can change the life of one person ...," she said, her voice trailing off in tears.

Emily Price's daughter Abby was Alyssa's best friend. The two families moved to Parkland five years ago. Their girls shared the same birthday and quickly became inseparable.

Alhadeff, Price and Abby visited Alyssa's grave on Thanksgiving.

"There's some days that I feel like staying in bed and not doing anything and it just feels like it's the end of the world ...," Price said. "[Lori] is able to draw strength from Alyssa on a daily basis and get up and be a force to be reckoned with."

Ryan Petty, whose daughter, Alaina, 14, died in the shooting, said Alhadeff isn't afraid to demand answers from school administrators when other board members are too timid.

"The other board members need to have the courage to stand up and ask the tough questions that Lori has started to ask," said Petty, who lost his own bid for the board.

Reminders everywhere

Alyssa was in many ways a typical teenager. She loved boys and going to the beach. She excelled in math and Spanish, was a gifted writer and captain of her soccer team. She wasn't afraid to speak her mind.

She didn't have a boyfriend and wasn't looking forward to Valentine's Day. Alhadeff knew that and tucked a pair of earrings and a chocolate bar in a gold bag for her. Alyssa was delighted and Snapchatted about it on the way to school before her mom dropped her off.

"I told Alyssa that I loved her," she said. It was the last time she would see her daughter alive.

Reminders of Alyssa are everywhere. Photos of Alyssa along with her brothers, now 11 and 14. The silver heart necklace Alhadeff wears, etched with a picture of mother and daughter. The stones painted with Alyssa's name, leading up to the front door.

Much of Alyssa's turquoise-colored bedroom remains untouched. Her retainer is still there, as are mementos of teammates and friends. Her yellow soccer jersey, No. 8, hangs on the wall. And her dirty clothes are still in the hamper by the bed.

"I haven't washed them yet because it's too hard," her mother said, crying again.

"I want her back. I want her back."

'I know that I can't bring Alyssa back but ... if I can change the life of one person ...'

Lori Alhadeff

mother of Alyssa, 14, who was killed in Parkland school shooting

NATION

Dog DNA testing surges

By JENNIFER PELTZ
Associated Press

NEW YORK — As people peer into DNA for clues to health and heritage, man's best friend is under the microscope, too.

Genetic testing for dogs has surged in recent years, fueled by companies that echo popular at-home tests for humans, offering a deep dive into a pet's genes with the swab of a canine cheek. More than 1 million dogs have been tested in a little over a decade.

The tests' rise has stirred debate about standards, interpretation and limitations. But to many dog owners, DNA is a way to get to know their companions better.

"It put some pieces of the puzzle together," said Lisa Topol, who recently tested her mixed-breed dogs Plop and Schmutzy. Plop was the top-scoring mixed-breed, and Schmutzy also competed in Saturday's agility contest at the Westminster Kennel Club dog show. Judging toward the coveted best-in-show prize began Monday.

A test by Embark Veterinary Inc. — which last fall became Westminster's first DNA testing partner — confirmed Topol's guess that her high-octane pets are more Australian cattle dog than anything else. But Schmutzy's genetic pie chart had surprise ingredients, including generous amounts of Labrador retriever and Doberman pinscher.

Huh? Topol thought at first. And then: Maybe Schmutzy's love of water and fetching is her inner Lab coming out. And doesn't she walk a bit like a Doberman?

"They are the dogs that they are. ... They're unique and they're special," said Topol, a New York advertising executive. But the testing "makes me understand them better."

Canine DNA testing for certain conditions and purposes goes back more than two decades, but the industry took off after scientists mapped a full set of dog genes and published the results in 2005.

Wisdom Health, part of pet care and candy giant Mars Inc., launched a breed identification test in 2007, added a health screening option a few years later and says it has now tested more than 1.1 million dogs worldwide. Numerous other brands are also available.

Mass market tests have fueled research and helped animal shelters attract adopters by providing more information about prospective pets. DNA can back up pure-bred dogs' parentage and help breeders try to eliminate certain diseases.

The technology has been used to identify dogs whose owners don't pick up their droppings, to pursue accused biters and to free a Belgian Malinois from dog death row after he was accused of killing a Pomeranian in Michigan.

Some veterinarians feel DNA testing enhances care.

"I want to know as much about my patients as possible," said Dr. Ernie Ward, a veterinarian and TV personality in Ocean Isle Beach, N.C. He recommends testing all puppies.

But quibbles about the dog DNA boom spilled into the prestigious science journal



COURTESY OF RENNIE PASQUINELLI/AP

Murray, a mixed-breed dog, stands on the porch in Ann Arbor, Mich., last April. Rennie Pasquinelli, who is Murray's owner, recently got the dog's DNA tested to learn what breeds are in his background.



MARY ALTAFFER/AP

Lisa Topol poses for a photo with her two rescue dogs, Schmutzy, right, and Plop in New York last month.

Nature last year.

"Pet genetics must be reined in," a Boston veterinarian and two other scientists wrote. Their commentary opened with a troubling story: a pug being euthanized because her owners interpreted DNA results to mean she had a rare, degenerative neurological disorder, when in fact her ailment might have been something more treatable.

"These (tests) should be used in a limited way until we get a lot more information," said co-author and vet Dr. Lisa Moses.

One concern is that tests can show genetic mutations that are linked to disease in some breeds but have unknown effects in the breed being tested.

It also may be unclear how often dogs with the mutation ultimately get sick.

That means tests, in themselves, can't necessarily tell pet owners how much they should worry or tell breeders whether a dog shouldn't reproduce.

Some in dogdom fear that DNA test re-

sults could keep animals from passing on otherwise good genes because of an ambiguous possibility of disease.

"The risk for overinterpretation is great," but DNA testing can be useful along with other tools, said veterinarian Dr. Diane Brown, the CEO of the American Kennel Club Canine Health Foundation.

It has invested almost \$20 million in genomic and molecular research and supports an international effort to promote standardization for dog DNA tests.

The initiative, led by the nonprofit International Partnership for Dogs, provides searchable data on test labs' procedures and breed-specific health test information.

Test companies say their work can help researchers address the unknowns and provides immediately useful information, such as whether a dog's genes suggest bad reactions to certain medications.

Companies including Embark and Wisdom have veterinarians assigned to help people understand worrisome results.

"It's like when you know something new about someone. That doesn't negatively or positively change your opinion on them, but you still look at them in a different way."

Rennie Pasquinelli

owner of Murray, a mixed-breed dog that she DNA tested

"We're here to help you care better for your dog," said Embark Veterinary Inc. CEO Ryan Boyko, whose company has breed- and health-tested nearly 100,000 canines in its 3½ years. The alliance with Westminster stands to give the company exposure, particularly to breeders.

Longtime Belgian sheepdog breeder Lorra Miller, who has had dogs compete at Westminster, was initially skeptical about consumer-oriented canine DNA tests. They struck her as a novelty for mixed-breed pets.

Now, she hopes they can help Belgian sheepdog fanciers build up a body of genetic data to spark more research on the protective herders.

"Even if I don't get immediate benefit ... it's for the future of the breed," said Miller, who lives near Monroe, Wash.

For Rennie Pasquinelli, the benefit is a new perspective on her dog, Murray.

He was pegged as a border collie-Boston terrier mix when she adopted him.

But an Embark test last month detected just a smidgen of border collie mixed with six other breeds, mainly American pit bull terrier — and no Boston terrier at all.

"Obviously, I don't love him more or less," said Pasquinelli, a graduate student in cognitive science at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore.

"It's like when you know something new about someone. That doesn't negatively or positively change your opinion on them, but you still look at them in a different way."

Toys R Us planning revival by holiday season

THURSDAY IN THE PACIFIC

CHINA RUSSIA

Pacific Ocean

N. KOREA

Seoul 31/20

S. KOREA

Osan 42/21

Busan 42/29

Sea of Japan

Iwakuni 44/40

JAPAN

Tokyo 41/34

Misawa 26/23

Sasebo 47/40

Guam 80/77

Philippine Sea

Okinawa 67/64

The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

NATION



Veterinary dentist Barron Hall, third from right, performs a root canal Saturday on Nikita, one of two Amur tigers at the National Zoo in Washington.

PHOTOS BY CALLA KESSLER/For The Washington Post

Dangerous dentistry

How do you give a tiger a root canal? With knockout gas, and great care

By IAN SHAPIRA
The Washington Post

Nikita, a 308-pound Amur tiger, was blissfully gassed out on a gurney at the National Zoo. On Saturday morning, as the orange, black and white feline lay on her side, her tongue dangling out, some 15 zoo staffers fearlessly hovered. They opened her mouth, checked her heart rate and, crucially, monitored for the slightest signs of muscle twitches and the long-shot chance that she'd suddenly wake.

Everyone knew the stakes. It would be bad, very bad, if Nikita woke up in this moment, in this very small room. The 6-year-old was getting a root canal.

Then, Barron Hall, a Northern Virginia-based, board-certified animal dentist, did what no other sane human would do to a sleeping tiger. He jammed a needle into her upper left canine tooth. Near the top. Near the gums. He kept doing this. Over and over.

But that was his job — digging a hole, irrigating the tooth's precious insides, and restoring it — and he's one of animal dentistry's best. (He has worked on Secret Service dogs and more than 50 tigers.)

And Nikita deserved the best. She's part of the Amur tiger sub-



The operation proceeds as Nikita snoozes under anesthesia.

species, an endangered population that lives mostly near the Amur River in Siberia. Poaching and habitat loss have reduced their numbers dangerously. As few as 360 are left, according to the National Zoo, but conservation efforts in Russia promoted by President Vladimir Putin have helped slow the decline.

Nikita was born at the Bronx Zoo in New York in 2012 and came to Washington in November 2018 so she could commune with the National Zoo's other Amur tiger, an 11-year-old named Pavel. He arrived at the National Zoo in the fall of 2017 from Lincoln Park Zoo in Chicago.

For the National Zoo, Pavel was a huge prize. He was the first of his endangered subspecies to be exhibited here since 1948.

The zoo's wish is that Nikita and Pavel produce at least one litter.

"With the cats, however many they have is awesome," said Craig Saffoe, the zoo's curator of the Great Cats. "We'd love to get a breeding at bare minimum."

But before Nikita and Pavel could begin their courtship, she needed that root canal.

As Hall, the dentist, began the procedure Saturday morning, he explained the root problem. Since Nikita fractured the crown of her tooth at some point in the

past several months, bacteria had wormed their way into the tooth's exposed cavity — the "pulp" — which contains blood vessels and nerves.

Without medical intervention, the bacteria would continue festering. The pus and necrotic tissue, left to stay, would put Nikita in endless pain.

"She would suffer in silence. That's what most animals do," Hall said. "As long as they eat and wag their tail, people think, 'Oh, they're fine.' We're the only species that gets rewarded for whining and complaining, so that's why our teeth get addressed."

Then Hall got out his needles. Technically, they're known as "files." They're made of stainless steel and look exactly like the kind of instruments no human would want to see poised above their mouth without being under anesthesia.

"I'm just accessing the pulp cavity," Hall said nonchalantly, shortly after he started jamming one file after the other into the enamel of Nikita's tooth. He needed to drill a hole so he could extract the bacteria and dead tissue from the pulp.

"We need to get things opened up, so we can work our way down," he said. "We have no idea how long this has been exposed for. But we need to get in there and clean it all out and sterilize it

and fill it back in (with a rubber-based material) so the dead space is solid."

Was he scared about the whole jabbing-a-tiger-in-the-tooth thing?

"I'm not concerned," he said. "I've done this long enough. I am more concerned about her not waking up than her doing any type of damage to me."

Hall, who has served as the National Zoo's animal dentist for the past 12 years, seemed to delight in his job. Toward the end of the procedure, he dug his file into the tooth and pulled it out to show off what he'd excavated.

"Oh, look! Look!" he said, pointing at some gray, stinky, lintlike material stuck to the file. "That's necrotic pulp! This is so cool."

Finally, the drilling, the jamming, the digging, it was all over, mercifully. He'd cleaned her tooth out and filled it in.

Cosmetically, Nikita looked brand new. The zoo's staff hoisted her off the gurney and placed her into an adjacent fenced-in enclosure, Cage No. 7.

Soon, she'll be in heat, or "estrus," according to Great Cats keeper Dell Guglielmo. And she'll be curious about her fellow Amur tiger, Pavel.

"Hopefully," Guglielmo said, "Nikita won't ever bare her teeth at him."

WORLD

Frankfurt airport is working on flying taxis

FRANKFURT, Germany — The operator of Frankfurt's international airport says it is developing a concept for electric air taxi services.

Fraport AG is working with Volocopter GmbH, which makes two-seat, multicopter electric aircraft that can fly with a pilot or autonomously.

Actually operating such taxis to bring people to and from the airport will have to wait until the legal framework for autonomous flying is established.

The European Aviation Safety Agency says it is developing standards for enable certification of such aircraft.

Neighbors of London gallery lose privacy fight

LONDON — Neighbors of London's Tate Modern lost a legal fight to force the art gallery to close a viewing platform that gives visitors a view into their homes.

Owners of four apartments in the Neo Bankside apartment complex sought to force the gallery to block off part of the 10th-floor terrace, which offers 360-degree views over London.

A lawyer for the homeowners argued the platform, used by up to 1 million people a year, constituted a "resilient" invasion of residents' privacy.

On Tuesday, High Court judge Anthony Mann dismissed the residents' claim on both privacy and nuisance grounds.

Report urges regulator to help fight fake news

LONDON — A British government-commissioned report is calling for a regulator to oversee online platforms such as Facebook and Google to help weed out "resilient" privacy.

Academic Frances Cairncross says tech firms should be obliged to help users understand the origin of news articles and the trustworthiness of their sources. She says a regulator is needed because "this is the most important to leave entirely to the judgment of commercial entities."

Google reacted cautiously, saying Tuesday that it looked forward "to discussing the proposals further to ensure sustainable, high quality journalism in the U.K."

Suspected militants kill 4 police in Pakistan

PESHAWAR, Pakistan — Pakistani police say suspected militants killed four officers after opening fire on a police vehicle in the northwestern town of Dera Ismail Khan.

Local police official Mohammad Javed said another two police officers were wounded in Tuesday's attack.

No group immediately claimed responsibility, but suspicion fell on Pakistani militants who have claimed previous attacks.

Dera Ismail Khan is in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province bordering Afghanistan. The Pakistani Taliban and other militant groups have long operated in the porous border region.

From The Associated Press

France sees rise in anti-Semitic acts

By SAMUEL PETREQUIN
Associated Press

PARIS — Portraits of a Holocaust survivor stained with swastikas. A memorial in honor of a Jewish man vandalized. A bagel shop with the German word "Juden" sprayed on its front window.

These are just a few of the hundreds of anti-Semitic acts that have been committed in France, which is home to the world's largest Jewish population outside Israel and the United States, in recent months.

According to French authorities, the total of registered anti-Semitic acts rose to 541 in 2018 from 311 in 2017, a rise of 74 percent.

A judicial official told The Associated Press on Tuesday that four investigations have been opened by Paris prosecutors after the latest incidents in the French capital last weekend. The person was not authorized to be publicly named because the investigations are ongoing.



COURTESY OF MAIRIE DU XIII^{ME} AR

Mailboxes with swastikas covering the face of the late Holocaust survivor and renowned French politician Simone Veil are shown Monday in Paris. According to French authorities, the total of registered anti-Semitic acts rose 74 percent from 2017 to 2018.

"Anti-Semitism is spreading like a poison, like a venom," Interior Minister Christophe Castaner said Monday night when attending a ceremony at the memorial of Ilan Halimi, a young Jewish man who was tortured to death in 2006. Two trees planted at the scene where he was found

dying in a Paris suburb have been vandalized.

"It's rotting minds; it's killing," Castaner said, vowing that the government would fight anti-Semitism.

Castaner did not link the rise of incidents to any specific groups. But some members of France's

yellow vest anti-government movement are known for extremist views, and several anti-Semitic incidents have occurred amid the broad-based movement that started in November.

Frederic Potier, a French government official in charge of fighting anti-Semitism, racism and discrimination based on sexual orientation, said some far-right groups have managed to infiltrate yellow vest demonstrations.

In addition to the desecration of the Ilan Halimi memorial, portraits of the late Simone Veil drawn on mailboxes were daubed with swastikas. A survivor of Nazi death camps and a European Parliament president who died in 2017, Veil also spearheaded abortion rights as one of France's most prominent female politicians.

In a separate incident, one of the founders of bagel chain Bagelstein said the word "Juden" was painted on the window of one of its restaurants, although he insisted the inscription was found before Saturday's yellow vest demonstrations in Paris.

Australian ruling party gets rare defeat in Parliament

Associated Press

CANBERRA, Australia — Australia's ruling party suffered a rare defeat in Parliament on Tuesday after the opposition joined minor parties and independent lawmakers in passing a bill that would give sick asylum-seekers easier access to mainland hospitals.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison's conservative government argues that the bill, passed 75 to 74 by the House of Representatives, will undermine Australia's tough refugee policy. The policy bans asylum-seekers who attempt to reach Australia by boat to camps on the Pacific island nations of Papua New Guinea and Nauru.

The bill would allow doctors instead of bureaucrats to decide which asylum-seekers in the camps can fly to Australia for medical treatment. It is likely to be made law by the Senate as early as Wednesday.

"This bill is acceptable in absolutely no

form. It only weakens our borders; it does not strengthen them," Morrison said Tuesday.

Australian governments rarely lose votes in the House of Representatives, where parties need a majority to form an administration.

But the ruling coalition lost its single-seat majority when former Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull split politics after he was deposed by his party colleagues in August. Another lawmaker has since quit the government as part of the bitter fallout over the leadership change.

But Morrison on Tuesday ruled out calling a snap election on the refugee issue, saying Australians will go to the polls in May.

Refugee advocates applauded from Parliament's public gallery when lawmakers endorsed what they regard as a more humanitarian approach toward asylum-seekers.

The Senate passed similar amendments on medical evacuations despite ruling party objections on the last day Parliament sat last year.

Australian security agencies warned in December that if those amendments became law, asylum-seekers from Asia, Africa and the Middle East would likely head to Australia again in rickety fishing boats from Southeast Asian ports.

The people-smuggling boat traffic has all but stopped in the past five years with the government promising that any refugees who arrive on Australian shores by boat will never be allowed to settle there.

Opposition leader Bill Shorten on Tuesday re-drafted the amendments passed by the Senate in December in an attempt to make the law less likely to attract a new wave of asylum-seekers, who used to arrive in Australia at a rate of more than a boat a day.

The changes included a provision that only the 1,000 asylum-seekers currently held on Nauru and Papua New Guinea and not any future arrivals would be considered for medical evacuation under the new regime.

17 killed in fire at shoddy New Delhi hotel

Associated Press

NEW DELHI — A fire engulfed a shoddy built budget hotel in central New Delhi early Tuesday, killing 17 people and injuring at least four others, including a woman from Myanmar who leaped from an upper floor to escape the flames, Indian authorities said.

Three of those killed were members of a family who had traveled to India's capital from Kerala in southern India to attend a wedding, family friend Arvind Vishwanathan said outside a hospital mortuary.

Most of the deaths at the Arpit Palace Hotel in Karol Bagh, an area in India's capital city popular with tourists because of its shops and budget hotels, were due to suffocation, Satyendar Kumar

Jain, the Delhi government minister of health and urban development, said as he toured the site after the fire was extinguished.

The hotel developer had a permit from the fire department to build up to four stories — the standard height in central Delhi. But the building appeared to have six floors, including a basement and a kitchen built on top of the roof, Jain said.

"Carelessness on the part of authorities is evident. We are going to investigate, and the wrongdoer will be punished," he said.

Hotel guest Sivanand Chand, 43, said he was jolted awake around 4 a.m., struggling to breathe.

"When I got out of my room, I could hear 'help, help' from adjoining rooms," Chand said. The hallway was dark and thick with smoke, so Chand turned back

into his room and opened a window. He saw flames rising fast.

"In 15 minutes, the whole room was black," he said.

A video shot by a worker at a nearby hotel showed flames consuming the top of the building, which authorities said contained an unauthorized makeshift kitchen formed from sheets of fiberglass.

Chand said rescue efforts were delayed because the first fire trucks arrived with manual ladders that were not tall enough to reach his floor.

He and some other guests were eventually evacuated through his window by a hydraulic lift.

Authorities were still investigating what sparked the blaze, Deputy Police Commissioner Mandeep Singh Randhawa said.



COURTESY OF SHYAMAL DUARY/AP

In this frame grab, flames rise from a hotel that caught fire Tuesday morning in New Delhi.

WORLD

Polar bears invade remote Russian town

By ISAAC STANLEY-BECKER
The Washington Post

Fences have risen around kindergartens. Special vehicles transport military personnel to their work sites. Residents of the island settlement are afraid to leave their homes.

Novaya Zemlya is a Russian archipelago stretching into the Arctic Ocean. It once played host to Soviet nuclear tests, including the largest-ever man-made explosion, when the so-called King of Bombs detonated in 1961, releasing 50 megatons of power and deepening an arms race that threatened to turn the Cold War hot.

Today, the barren landscape is under siege—from dozens of polar bears locked in their very own sort of hot war. Marine ecologists have long been sounding the alarm about the peril posed by global warming for the vulnerable species. In the

far reaches of Russia, the situation has suddenly become traumatic for humans too.

Officials in the Arkhangelsk region, where the archipelago lies, on Saturday declared a state of emergency because of the marauding mammals.

Polar bears are typically born on land but live mostly on sea ice, where they hunt and feed on seals. But as arctic ice thins, which is linked to the acceleration of climate change, the animals move ashore, ravenous. They scavenge, sometimes coming into contact with human populations.

At least 52 bears were massed near Belushya Guba, the main settlement on the island territory, which is still used as a military garrison, with restricted access to the public. The town had a population of about 2,000 as of the 2010 census.

Now, they could be selectively slaughtered if Russian authorities can't figure out another way to keep them from menacing

the residents of the remote island outpost, where they began to collect in December 2018. Warning of the "mass invasion of polar bears in residential areas," local officials vowed action in response to "numerous oral and written complaints demanding to ensure safety in the settlement."

Officials also said the situation was unprecedented.

"I have been in Novaya Zemlya since 1983, but there has never been so many polar bears in the vicinity," said Zhiganas Musin, a local administrative head, according to TASS, Russia's state news agency.

TASS reported that the animals had tried to enter office buildings and residential quarters and that they had chased residents and engaged in other aggressive behavior. Photos and video footage posted over the weekend showed polar bears parading through drab living spaces, appearing on playgrounds, staring down dogs and

feasting on garbage.

"The people are scared," regional officials reported in a statement. "They are frightened to leave homes and their daily routines are broken. Parents are afraid to let the children go to school or kindergarten."

Meanwhile, vehicle patrols and brigades of dogs appeared to make no difference. The mammals were undeterred, continuing to pose a "threat to the life and health" of residents, officials said. More drastic measures were required.

Residents are barred from hunting the animals, which are classified as a vulnerable species because of the "ongoing and potential loss of their sea ice habitat resulting from climate change," according to the World Wildlife Fund. The International Union for Conservation of Nature estimates that there are currently somewhere between 22,000 and 31,000 polar bears worldwide.

Owner of stolen bonsai offers care instructions

By CLEVE R. WOOTSON JR.
The Washington Post

Fuyumi Iimura has a message for whoever broke into her family's expansive garden outside Tokyo and made off with a small fortune's worth of some of the planet's most beautiful bonsai trees:

Please water them.

Over a period of several nights, a team of Japanese bandits stole the cream of Iimura's collection, regarded as some of the most exquisite in existence, CNN reported.

It was like losing a child, Iimura said in a Facebook post. The only thing worse would be if the trees weren't properly cared for and centuries' worth of work withered away because of neglect.

"I want whoever took the bonsai to make sure they are watered. The shimpaku lived for 400 years. It needs care and can't survive a week without water," Iimura said in the grief-stricken post on her Facebook page, referring to rare junipers that were stolen. "They can live forever — even after we're gone, if they receive the proper care."

Clearly, the thieves knew what they were doing in last month's heist. They stole a total of seven trees, but those were the most expensive in Iimura's collection, according to CNN. Combined, the plants were worth \$118,000 but could fetch much more on illicit markets.

"We treated these miniature trees like our children," Iimura said. "There are no words to describe how we feel. It's like having your limbs lopped off."

Iimura's husband, Seiji Iimura, is a fifth-generation bonsai master whose family has been cultivating bonsai since the Edo period, which ended in 1868.

Fuyumi Iimura's Facebook profile is full of pictures of bonsai trees: mature trees in their garden, younger specimens and pre-bonsai seedlings at a greenhouse fair.

But if the bonsai were children,

the shimpaku was clearly the favorite, a 400-year-old cover model of a tree whose undulating lines are straight out of a storybook.

Shimpaku junipers, which are increasingly endangered in the wild, are found in difficult-to-access cliff areas, according to the World Bonsai Friendship Federation. Stories that sound like mythical fables abound of bonsai collectors risking their lives on Japanese mountaintops to collect the trees.

The Iimuras' shimpaku had a similar backstory.

It had been taken from a mountain more than four centuries ago, and Iimura's family had gradually culled the tree down to its current size, 3 feet tall and more than 2 feet wide.

It dotted posters for a bonsai fair. Fuyumi Iimura snapped photos of the tree topped with snow, its needles covered in sparkling ice crystals. They had hoped to enter it into a contest in coming months.

Despite the tree's celebrity status, the Iimuras didn't hide their prized bonsai, according to the Asahi Shimbun, a national newspaper in Japan. They kept the farm open to the public so fans could be close to the bonsai. For the same reason, the couple did not implement restrictive security measures. That will change after thieves made off with a miniature tree that costs as much as a sports car.

They also made off with other trees, as well as rare shimpaku.

"An individual well-versed in bonsai must have been involved in the theft," Seiji Iimura told the newspaper.

There is, of course, no Interpol database of stolen bonsai, but this theft appears to be an order of magnitude larger than similar thefts.

In November, a farm in Saitama, Japan, had eight bonsai pots stolen — six months after a similar heist, according to the Asahi newspaper.



ANDY WONG/AP

Standing guard in the snow

A Chinese paramilitary policeman stands guard under the portrait of former leader Mao Zedong outside the Tiananmen Gate as snow falls in Beijing on Tuesday. China's capital is mostly dry in the winter but a storm system brought snow to the city Tuesday morning.

Hungary offers perks to boost birth rate

By GRIFF WITTE
The Washington Post

BERLIN — Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban has built his political brand on saying no to immigration.

But his stalwart opposition, combined with an exodus of young workers and low birth rates, has created a demographic nightmare. Hungary's population is shrinking, a trend that poses long-term risks for the economy. It has also caused short-term political trouble for Orban, who has had to enact unpopular labor laws to try to wring more hours from a declining workforce.

Rather than rethink his immigration policies, the prime min-

ister on Sunday doubled down on his preferred solution: Hungarian women need to have more babies.

In his annual state of the nation address, Orban announced a slew of incentives to get his countrymen and women in a baby-making state of mind. Most dramatically, he said that any woman who has four children or more will never have to pay income tax again.

As he does with almost every speech, the right-wing and increasingly autocratic prime minister used the announcement to contrast his approach with that of the West, and to take aim squarely at those who see any upside to immigration.

"In all of Europe there are

fewer and fewer children, and the answer of the West to this is migration," Orban said. "They want as many migrants to enter as there are missing kids so that the numbers will add up."

Hungary, he insisted, has a better answer. "We Hungarians have a different way of thinking," he said. "Instead of just numbers, we want Hungarian children. Migration to us is surrender."

In addition to the tax exemption for mothers of four or more, the prime minister offered state support for those buying seven-seat vehicles, mortgage relief for parents with multiple kids and additional places at nursery schools.

Orban did not say how the measures will be funded.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Phone shows home on fire 1K miles away

NH HAMPSTEAD — A New Hampshire man said he saw his house go up in flames on his cellphone while he was nearly 1,000 miles away watching the Super Bowl.

Michael Todesca, of Hampstead, told WMUR-TV he was at a Chicago bar with his girlfriend on Feb. 3 rooting for the New England Patriots when he received a phone alert from his home surveillance system.

Todesca said it looked like a white screen. He didn't think anything of it and put the phone in his pocket. Then a neighbor called to say his home was on fire.

He saw the burning house on his phone. At one point, he talked with firefighters, trying to help them get inside.

New way to recycle beads at Mardi Gras

LA NEW ORLEANS — What to do with all those beads from parades during Carnival season around New Orleans?

Unwanted beads can be tossed at a big truck at the end of parades. The truck operated by the ARC of Greater New Orleans will then move the beads to a recycling center.

WWL-TV reported Jefferson Parish approved an ordinance allowing people to throw beads at the truck at the end of the parade. The beads will be taken to a center, and employees will repackaging and resell the beads.

It's part of ARC's mission to help employ people with developmental disabilities.

Horse rescued twice in 2 days dies from injuries

DE DELAWARE CITY — A 2,000-pound Clydesdale horse that was rescued from a frozen creek and then his own stable in Delaware was put down.

Owner Pam Collicchi told The News Journal that Bubba was euthanized last week.

The Delaware City Fire Company first met Bubba Feb. 3 when he became mired in near-freezing mud after wandering 25 feet into a creek. After his rescue, he walked back to the stables.

Firefighters were again called the next day after Bubba wedged himself into a corner and couldn't stand.

The vet said Bubba had no feeling in his hind legs and had suffered too much lung and other damage from being on his side.

Rescuers take patient to hospital on foot

MO MARYLAND HEIGHTS — Suburban St. Louis firefighters gave up on using an ambulance and walked one patient to a hospital on a stretcher after roads became dangerously icy.

KSDK-TV reported that Maryland Heights firefighter Shaylor Tazet and his partner rushed to Interstate 270 after a bus spun around on the highway. Tazet said they had almost reached the

THE CENSUS

62

The diameter in inches of a fireworks shell a Colorado man attempted to launch for a world record. The Steamboat Pilot & Today reported Tim Borden, a pyrotechnics expert, tried to launch the shell from the Howelsen Hill Ski Area in northern Colorado but it exploded too early. Borden said it's difficult to calculate how much explosives are needed to successfully launch the 2,500-pound shell. He vowed not to give up after the failed attempt, saying, "We'll be back here again next winter."



MATT ROURKE/AP

Reaching out

A woman reaches for her companion's oar to pull the boat to the dock on the Schuylkill River in Philadelphia on Monday.

bus when their ambulance slid on the ice and hit a guardrail.

The only person on the bus was the driver. They put her on a stretcher, covered her up to keep the sleet off her and walked her about a mile to SSM Health DePaul Hospital.

Storm brings damage, and snow, to island

HI HONOLULU — A strong storm that hit Hawaii knocked out power, brought down tree branches, flooded coastal roads — and even brought snow.

Snow is not unheard of in mountainous parts of the tropical island chain, but officials say the coating at 6,200 feet at a state park on Maui could mark the lowest-elevation snowfall recorded in the state.

The National Weather Service said gusts hit nearly 70 mph in some areas, and the agency is warning of coastal flooding.

The Honolulu Star-Advertiser reported that trees were toppled on several islands and there were power outages. Two ground hornbill birds escaped from the Honolulu Zoo after the storm damaged their enclosure.

School receives \$10M donation from couple

NJ FRANKLIN LAKES — A New Jersey couple donated \$10 million to the University of Notre Dame, which will rename a college center for them.

Notre Dame said the gift from Anthony and Christie de Nicola, a Franklin Lakes couple, will allow them to expand the reach of the de Nicola Center for Ethics and Culture.

NorthJersey.com reported Anthony de Nicola is the president and managing partner of Welsh, Carson, Anderson & Stowe, a private New York investment firm, and Christie de Nicola has served on the board of St. Elizabeth Home School Association in Wyckoff.

Officials warn of possible rabies exposure at game

IN INDIANAPOLIS — Indiana health officials said people who had contact with a bat last week during an Indiana Pacers game have possibly been exposed to rabies.

The Indiana State Department of Health said anyone who may have touched the bat with bare skin when it flew around at the Pacers game against the Los Angeles Clippers on Thursday in Indianapolis is urged to contact the department or a health care provider about receiving rabies vaccinations.

The department said since the bat is no longer in Bankers Life Fieldhouse, its rabies status is unknown.

Chase reaches 100 mph in snowy conditions

IA CLEAR LAKE — Two men were arrested after being accused of leading police in northern Iowa on a chase reaching speeds of more than 100 mph in near-blizzard conditions.

The Mason City Globe Gazette reported the chase happened after a Cerro Gordo County sheriff's deputy tried to stop a car reported as stolen. Officials said the car fled through the town of Clear Lake as high winds whipped up fallen snow and caused blizzard-like conditions. Poor road conditions caused the driver to crash west of Clear Lake.

Police said Jared Scott Schnecko, 31, of Clear Lake was charged with felony car theft, driving under suspension, speeding 100 mph in a 45 mph zone and several other counts. Passenger Dylan Patrick Dimig, 26, of Schleswig was charged with misdemeanor interference with official acts.

Markers donated for horse cemetery

KY GEORGETOWN — Old Friends horse farm in Kentucky said a monument company is stepping forward to make sure each retired racehorse buried there is remembered with a headstone.

The farm near Georgetown said it has received a donation from Bardstown-based Kentucky Monument company. The farm said Kentucky Monument has donated three new markers for graves in the farm's horse cemetery.

Old Friends President Michael Blown said all horses that die at the farm receive a grave marker, but only some receive permanent stone markers because of the expense.

From wire reports

FACES

Film academy reveals which 4 Oscars will be given off air

By LINDSEY BAHR
Associated Press

The film academy has revealed the Oscar categories that will be presented during commercial breaks of this year's broadcast in an attempt to shorten the show to three hours.

The Oscars for cinematography, film editing, makeup and hairstyling and live-action short will be presented off-air during this year's ceremony, an Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences spokesperson said Monday. The winning speeches will air later in the broadcast and also will be live-streamed on Oscar.com and the film academy's social media accounts.

Film academy president John Bailey said in a note to members that the executive committees of six branches opted into this "slightly edited timeframe" and the board of governors chose four for this year.

"We are committed to presenting a show which we all will be proud of," Bailey said.

In future years, four to six rotating categories could be cut from the broadcast.

The plan to hand out certain awards during commercials to achieve a three-hour runtime on Feb. 24 was announced in August as one of a few changes to combat declining ratings. But unlike the Oscar category for popular film, which was walked back for further consideration after impassioned backlash, this one stuck.

The move has been generally disliked by nominees and many film fans on social media, some of whom have been tweeting with the hashtag #PresentAll24 for weeks.

"This decision has nothing to do with any decision about cinema. It's a broadcast time decision. It's about the show, the entertainment. But it should not be part of the discussion of what Academy Awards are about," said "Roma" director and cinematographer Alfonso Cuarón at the Directors Guild Awards this month. "The Academy Awards should be about celebrating the artists in the different categories."

Cuarón is the only nominee in a cut category who is up for other awards, including best director and best picture. Those will be presented during the broadcast.

"Vice" director Adam McKay said earlier that he was "bummed" by the idea. He had heard whispers that makeup and hairstyling was going to be one of the unlucky categories, which he considered a particular blow for the people who worked so hard to transform Christian Bale into Dick Cheney for his film.

"That crew worked so hard," McKay said. "Vice" is also up for an editing award, which will be presented off air as well.

Last week at the Nominees Luncheon, "Bohemian Rhapsody" editor John Ottman called the change insulting. His ended up being one of the cut categories as well.



Aidy Bryant appears in a scene from the Hulu series "Shrill." The six-part comedy is based on Lindy West's memoir, "Shrill: Notes from a Loud Woman."

'SNL' star Aidy Bryant ready to be 'Shrill' on Hulu

Associated Press

"Saturday Night Live" star Aidy Bryant says she was drawn to the Hulu series "Shrill" because of the chance to play a woman who is about more than her weight.

The six-part comedy, debuting on the streaming service March 15, is based on Lindy West's memoir, "Shrill: Notes from a Loud Woman," which Bryant said struck a chord with her.

She identified with the book's portrayal of a world that is "telling you you're wrong for existing the way you do, even if you don't feel that way," Bryant said Monday during the Television Critics Association winter meeting in Pasadena, Calif., where TV networks and streaming services are presenting details on upcoming programs. "You feel like, 'I have a lot to offer the world, and why do I have to do it in a size-two package?'"

The series, which Bryant co-wrote, isn't what she called a "fat festival" that's obsessed with weight.

"Our show isn't really about being fat and it's also really not about dieting and it's really not about her body," she said of her character, Annie. Ultimately, she said, it's what any TV show is about: "character trying to achieve her goals and the family and friends who surround her."

That circle includes a difficult boss (played by John Cameron Mitchell, co-creator of the stage musical and film "Hedwig and the Angry Inch") and her close buddy (English comedy actress Lily Adedipe).

Abortion also figures into the show, as it does in West's memoir.

Series executive producer Elizabeth Banks said she felt "having a positive, normalizing representation of women's reproductive rights on television would also be a really good idea."

In other Hulu news from the TCA meeting: No "Thrones" conflict for "Handmaid's Tale": Resistance is the theme when "The Handmaid's Tale" returns this summer with 13 episodes for its third season, but the drama is avoiding a collision with the final season of HBO's "Game of Thrones."

The dystopian drama will debut three

episodes on Wednesday, June 5, Hulu said. Other episodes will follow on subsequent Wednesdays.

The return date contrasts with the previous seasons' April debuts and puts the drama outside the eligibility window for this year's Emmy Awards. It also keeps the show out of the path of juggernaut "Game of Thrones," which starts April 14.

The Hulu drama collected six Emmys for its first season, including best drama and best lead actress for Elisabeth Moss, who stars as June.

The new season of "The Handmaid's Tale" will focus on June's struggle against the repressive regime of Gilead, Hulu said in a release.

Clooney's 'Catch': George Clooney says he never expected his next project to be a miniseries based on a novel he read in high school.

But against his initial inclination, he's directing and starring in Hulu's series "Catch-22," drawn from Joseph Heller's classic work about the insanity of war. It will be released this spring.

Clooney said Monday that the longer format allowed them to develop the characters beyond what could be done in Mike Nichols' 1970 classic movie. Adopted at the time by opponents of the Vietnam War, he said the story making fun of the red tape and bureaucracy of war is relevant today and not tied to a particular conflict.

Howard the Hulk Duck: Hulu is teaming with Marvel to make four animated series based on comic book characters like Howard the Duck.

Director Kevin Smith and comics Chelsea Handler and Patton Oswalt are among the people who have signed deals with the streaming service to help produce the cartoons. Smith will work on the Howard the Duck series.

Other shows revolve around M.O.D.O.K., a villain with an enormous head; Hit-Monkey, about a Japanese snow monkey turned assassin; and Tigra and Dazzler, two superheroes who work in Los Angeles.

Since the deal was just signed, there's no estimate on when the series will be ready.

Minaj to cancel on BET after network's diss tweet

Nicki Minaj says she's canceling her appearance at the BET Experience Concert after the network tweeted about her and fellow rapper Cardi B.

Minaj said Monday on social media that she won't perform at the concert or BET Awards. It comes after BET tweeted Sunday that Minaj was "being dragged by her lacefront" following Cardi B's Grammy win for best rap album.

In a statement, BET apologized to Minaj for the "hurt, disappointment and confusion that this post has caused." The network says it will conduct an internal investigation. The tweet has been deleted.

A rep for Minaj didn't immediately respond to an email seeking comment.

The seventh annual concert will be held June 20-22 at the Staples Center in Los Angeles ahead of the BET Awards on June 23.



Nicki Minaj took exception to a BET tweet following Cardi B's Grammy win for best rap album Sunday night.

Nielsen says Grammys audience about 20 million

Nearly 20 million people watched Childish Gambino and Kacey Musgraves earn four trophies each at the Grammy Awards, about the same audience as the annual music show had last year.

The Nielsen company on Monday estimated the Grammy audience size at 19.9 million. The 2018 audience of 19.8 million had been the Grammys' smallest audience in a decade.

Alicia Keys hosted the nearly-four-hours-long awards show.

Generally, the Grammys has reached between 20 and 30 million the past decade, with a high of 39.9 million in 2012 when it was held shortly after Whitney Houston's death.

Couric writing memoir, expected for 2021

Katie Couric is writing a memoir, one she is counting on to live up to its title: "Unexpected."

In an announcement Tuesday, the publisher Little, Brown and Company told The Associated Press that the book was scheduled for spring 2021. Couric, 62, plans to share details both "hilarious" and "humiliating" as she looks back on her prize-winning, 40-year career.

She will touch upon everything from the #MeToo movement which led to the firing of her former "Today" show colleague Matt Lauer, to what her publisher is calling her own "proto-#MeToo brushes with workplace sexism, like the time a high-ranking executive commented on her breast size in front of the top brass during an editorial meeting."

Stripes SERVICE DIRECTORY

The Daily Guide to Navigating the European Business Market

Attorneys 178

Court & Carpenter
MILITARY DEFENSE LAWYERS

THE LOCAL CIVILIAN MILITARY DEFENSE FIRM

Sauerwiesen 2, Kaiserslautern-Siegelbach, Germany 67661

(833) 446-UCMJ (x8265)
www.militarylawfirm.com

Dental 902

AMERICAN DOCTORS & STAFF
Creating Healthy Smiles

- Certified Orthodontics
- American Dental Hygienists
- Family Dentistry

Ramstein Dental Care
06371 406 230
Poststrasse 1, 66877 Ramstein
Ramsteindental.com

Wiesbaden Dental Care
06119 887 26 50
Bahnstrasse 14, 65205 Wiesbaden
Wiesbadendental.com

TRICARE Preferred Provider

Transportation 944

VEHICLE SHIPPING SERVICES

- International Shipping
- Import & Export
- Inland trucking (U.S. & Europe)
- Door to door pick-up/delivery service
- Customs clearance
- All Risk Marine Insurance
- Auto Insurance (Germany only)

For Further Information Please Contact

GERMANY Phone: +49-(0)6134-2592730 Toll free: 0800-CARSHIP (Germany only) E-Mail: info@transglobal-logistics.de WEB: www.transglobal-logistics.de	UNITED KINGDOM +44-(0)1638-515714 enquiries@carshipuk.co.uk www.carshipuk.co.uk	U.S.A +1-972-602-1670 Ext. 1701 +1-800-264-9167 (US only) info@tgal.us www.tgal.us
--	---	---

For 2nd POV Shipments - Offices / Agencies near Military Installations

Trans Global
LOGISTICS EUROPE GMBH

Transportation 944

Ship Cars and Containers to and from the USA

WSA
WORLDWIDE SHIPPING AGENCY

OPENING HOURS: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Mon - Fri
0800-522-6274 or 800-WSA-SHIP (972-7447)
For a free rate request, please email: info@worldwide-ship.de
Visit our Website: www.worldwide-ship.de

Off Duty? Amuse Yourself!

Concert, events, TV, movies, music, video games, celebrity antics...

Get entertained with...

STARS AND STRIPES



Want a better picture?

You'll get one - just by reading Stars and Stripes military news coverage.

In print • Online at stripes.com • Mobile for Android, iPhone & iPad
No one covers the bases the way we do.

STARS AND STRIPES
However you read us, wherever you need us.

Round-the-world news for America's military.

Stripes.com supplies constant updates, on news of interest — including reports from our overseas military bases in Europe, Pacific, Southwest Asia and the Mideast, and coverage of the Pentagon and Capitol Hill. Also available on mobile apps for Android smartphones and as an iOS app for both iPhone and iPad.

STARS AND STRIPES

Mobile • Online • Print

STARS AND STRIPES

Max D. Lederer Jr., Publisher
Lt. Col. Sean Klinek, Europe commander
Lt. Col. Richard McClintic, Pacific commander
Harry Eley, Europe Business Operations

EDITORIAL

Terry Leonard, Editor
leonard.terry@stripes.com
Robert H. Reid, Senior Managing Editor
reid.robert@stripes.com
Tina Croley, Managing Editor for Content
croley.tina@stripes.com
Sean Moores, Managing Editor for Presentation
moores.sean@stripes.com
Joe Gromelski, Managing Editor for Digital
gromelski.joe@stripes.com

BUREAU STAFF

Europe/Mideast
Erik Davis, Europe & Mideast Bureau Chief
slavin.erk@stripes.com
+49(0)631.3615.9350; DSN (314)583.9350
Pacific
Aaron Kidd, Pacific Bureau Chief
kidd.aaron@stripes.com
+81.42.552.2511 ext. 88380; DSN (315)227.380
Washington
Joseph Caccioli, Washington Bureau Chief
caccioli.joseph@stripes.com
+1(202)886-0033
Brian Bowers, Assistant Managing Editor, News
bowers.brian@stripes.com

CIRCULATION

Mideast
Robert Reismann, Mideast Circulation Manager
robert.l.reismann.nal@gmail.com
nsxcirculation@stripes.com
DSN (314)583-9111

Europe
Erik Davis, Europe@stripes.com
+49(0)631.3615.9111; DSN (314)583.9111

Pacific
+1(202)886-0005
+81-3 6385.3171; DSN (315)229.3171

CONTACT US

Washington
tel: +1(202) 886-0005
633 3rd NW, Suite 116, Washington, DC 20001-3050

Reader letters
letters@stripes.com

Additional contacts
stripes.com/contacts

OMBUSDMAN

Tobias Naegele

The Stars and Stripes ombudsman protects the free flow of news and information, reporting any attempts by the military or other authorities to undermine the newspaper's independence. The ombudsman also responds to concerns and questions from readers, and monitors coverage for fairness, accuracy, timeliness and balance. The ombudsman welcomes comments from readers, and can be contacted by email at naeagle.tobias@stripes.com, or by phone at 202-886-0005.

Stars and Stripes (USPS 0417900) is published weekly, days (except Dec. 25 and Jan. 1) for 50 cents Monday through Thursday and for \$1 on Friday by Pacific Stars and Stripes, Inc. 45002, APO AF 96301-5002. Periodicals postage paid at San Francisco, CA, Postmaster: Send address changes to Pacific Stars and Stripes, Inc. 45002, APO AF 96301-5002.

This newspaper is authorized by the Department of Defense for members of the military services overseas. However, the contents of Stars and Stripes are unofficial, and are not to be considered as the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government. As a DOD newspaper, Stars and Stripes may be distributed through official channels and use appropriated funds for distribution to remote locations where overseas DOD personnel are located.

The appearance of advertising in this publication does not constitute endorsement by the Department of Defense or Stars and Stripes of the products or services advertised. Products or services advertised shall be made available for purchase, sale or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user or patron.

© Stars and Stripes 2019

stripes.com

OPINION

Food for thought on the campaign trail

By PAUL WALDMAN
The Washington Post

If you decide to run for president, you will have to do many things, not all of them pleasant. You will have to call hundreds or even thousands of people and ask them for money. You will have to pretend to be overjoyed to meet every person you encounter, no matter how indifferent they are toward you. You will have to repeat the same speech over and over until you feel like a malfunctioning robot. You will have to put up with insane questions from reporters about your standing in the polls.

And you will have to eat.

Indeed, you will be expected to take any food item anyone puts in your hand, appetizing or not, and cram it down your gullet as though you'd been waiting years to get your mouth around a deep-fried Twinkie or squirrel-snout-on-a-stick or whatever is causing a stir at the state fair this year.

More than that, though, you will be watched while you eat by the eagle-eyed representatives of the elite press, who will scrutinize every move of your hand and twitch of your lip as though they were Soviet figure-skating judges searching for the most minute flaws in your performance. Once the meal is consumed, they will ask: Was that sufficiently *authentic*? Did you order the local delicacy in this place you are not from and may never have visited with the proper words, and eat it with the proper implement? If you failed in this task, you are plainly unable to connect with the "real" Americans whose favor will determine your fate.

Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand is the latest to fall the test. On a visit to South Carolina, she went to a meeting in a chicken eatery restaurant and began eating her chicken with a fork, then noticed that others were using their hands, and politely asked the owner what was better. Upon being informed that she should use her hands, she

did so. But it was too late; her true nature as an out-of-touch fraud had been revealed.

"Could this really be the first time in 50 years she ate fried chicken?" a New York Times reporter asked. "Is there anything Gillibrand has done that is not contrived and opportunistic?" said an esteemed New York Magazine writer. Judgment: Nothing.

Nothing else, Gillibrand can take solace in having joined a long line of presidents and presidential aspirants who have fallen short in the culinary authenticity department. In 1976, President Gerald Ford bit into a tamale without sucking it first, thereby proving that he would be an enemy of all Latino Americans. New York Mayor Bill de Blasio ate pizza with a fork, a somewhat minor sin. But nobody was punished more harshly for a food faux pas than Sen. John Kerry, who in 2003 made the required pre-Pennsylvania primary pilgrimage to the corner of 9th and East Passyunk in Philadelphia, where Pat's King of Steaks and Geno's Steaks stare across the intersection in their eternal cheese-steak war.

Kerry made the horrific mistake of ordering his cheesesteak with that obscure, fancy-pants topping known as Swiss cheese, producing a chorus of contempt from reporters who explained that "real" Philadelphians order their cheesesteaks with Cheez Whiz. Which is itself not true; though many people get Whiz, the best choice is actually provolone (I speak as someone who lived in Philly for a decade).

But the point is that Cheez Whiz is, in the estimation of the Washington-based press corps, obviously the most authentic choice because they assume it's the one that blue-collar, down-home, reglar-fellas would choose. If a politician hasn't been properly briefed by their advance team to place the right order or eat in the proper way — which almost always indicates nothing more than that they're not from this place or they haven't eaten this particular food

— the judgment is swift and harsh. Look at this phony, pretending to be an ordinary person when he's obviously some kind of effete swell who'd be more at home sitting in the Harvard Club sipping from a snifter of brandy while discussing the merits of the Gulfstream G500 with a guy named "Winthrop." How could he possibly have the best interests of ordinary Americans at heart?

It works even better if reporters have already decided the candidate is inauthentic, as they had with Kerry — and if the reporters themselves are making their own possibly ill-informed assumptions about regular people's food preferences. So a CNN reporter described how she knew Kerry couldn't connect with the masses when he asked for green tea in an Iowa restaurant, as though green tea is some kind of exotic concoction the simple folk of the heartland could not possibly have encountered in their chain restaurants.

A good deal of campaign reporting is an attempt to take the repetitive events of the campaign trail and not only find something new in them but use the mundane goings-on of the moment as a symbol of something larger and more revealing. Which means that reporters are always on the lookout for screw-ups, especially those that offer an amusing visual. And if the reporter can condescendingly explain how "real" people are supposed to act — meaning the reporter him or herself is authentic enough to know, while the politician isn't — that's even better.

So the next time you encounter one of these stories, remember that there are foods every single one of us isn't sure how to eat, or how to eat in a certain context. It doesn't make us inauthentic, and it doesn't tell you anything about who should and shouldn't be president.

Paul Waldman is a contributor to The Washington Post's Plum Line column, and a senior writer at The American Prospect.

When stolen intimate photos come out, don't look

By ELIZABETH BRUENIG
The Washington Post

We live in an era rich with sexual documentary evidence. Mass text-messaging combined with the rapid spread of handheld cameras and photo-sharing technology have produced a world where every sexual relationship has a much higher likelihood of producing its own historical record than the trysts of a generation ago. Consequently, we've all become archivists of others' sexual lives: readers of leaked texts, viewers of dubiously released private photos, knowers of once-secret things.

It's an easy hole to fall into, because eavesdropping is thrilling and snooping even more so, especially when the subject is otherwise remote. The latest example is, of course, Jeff Bezos — the founder and CEO of Amazon who owns The Washington Post — whose intimate text exchanges with Lauren Sanchez were recently leaked by the National Enquirer. Last week, Bezos published a Medium post alleging that the Enquirer has also obtained private, explicit photographs, and that the tabloid has threatened to release them unless Bezos ceases his private investigation into how the Enquirer got the texts and pictures in the first place. To which Bezos said thanks but no thanks, meaning the pictures could potentially emerge at any time. He wouldn't be the first celebrity to turn up disabused in the press against his wishes.

Nor will he be the last, and neither will the stanchless trickle of sexts and nude photographs and the occasional video flow from the accounts of celebrities or other people in whose lives there is arguably some public interest. So it makes sense to develop some kind of principle for dealing with these materials as they emerge. And that's more complicated than it may initially seem.

We tend to make (helpful) distinctions between thinking and doing, which in its best public service is a bulwark against detecting and prosecuting crimes. Thus, having a gander at the daily cache of ill-gotten erotica seems hard to fit into any pre-existing category of wrongdoing. After all, looking at it doesn't make you responsible for the initial invasion involved in stealing it. Not looking at it won't put it back where it was, so to speak. What's public is relentlessly public. Looking also doesn't mean you have to participate in any kind of public shaming or pile-on. So what's the harm in simply knowing what somebody texted to somebody else?

When it comes to viewing leaked sexual ephemera, the knowing is your harm. The doing is necessary the point — for every kind of secret; being aware of somebody's private dislike of a mutual friend, for instance, doesn't represent the same kind of violation as having ungranted sexual knowledge of them, because sex is different from other things. The exclusivity, the secrecy, that necessitates the point — they're the essential ingredients of intimacy. And

simply knowing the details without invitation jeopardizes that.

In 2017, Jennifer Lawrence reflected on the 2014 theft of her own private, sexual photographs this way: "When the hacking went down, I was so angry because it was violating that you can't even put it into words ... like, there's not one person in the world that is not capable of seeing these intimate photos of me." Part of what concerned her was the social response. She mentioned her anxiety that while at an ordinary public event, a strange crowd pull up those photos on a phone, apropos of nothing. That's the uneasy violation that happens mind to mind, when someone suddenly knows something they shouldn't, and you can't stop them from knowing it.

The law has long had its own ways of dealing with wrongful invasions of privacy, the sorts that cause damage to careers and relationships and reputations and health, or that regard the specific invaders of privacy themselves. But moral harms need no substantive damages to be wrong, and they apply to the world of onlookers as much as to the thieves of private materials. When there's a case of prevailing public interest regarding stolen sexual materials, you'll know, and that scenario will involve its own weighing of right and wrong. But as for the never-ending reel of things we ought not see ever-flickering across our screens — ignore them, don't look. There are things better left unknown.

Elizabeth Bruenig is an opinion columnist at The Washington Post.

STARS STRIPES®

Unlimited Digital Access

INTRO OFFER!

FOUR WEEKS Web + Mobile

ONLY
99¢

When you subscribe to Stripes Digital Access...

Get exclusive access to innovative digital features, interactive articles, award-winning photography and more. Enjoy unlimited access to the Stripes.com website and our Stars and Stripes mobile apps, all for a low monthly or annual subscription.



Stars and Stripes content features

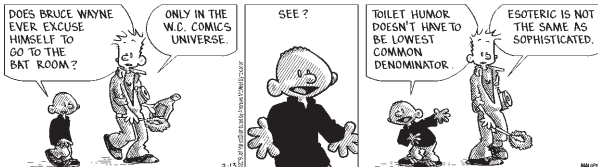
- Access to Stars and Stripes mobile apps
- Exclusive reports on military matters
- Coverage of all military branches
- Special features on current issues
- Veterans topics
- Retrospectives such as Vietnam at 50
- Archive Photo of the Day
- Unbiased, First Amendment protected reporting from U.S. military bases around the world.

Subscribe Today!



stripes.com/subscribe

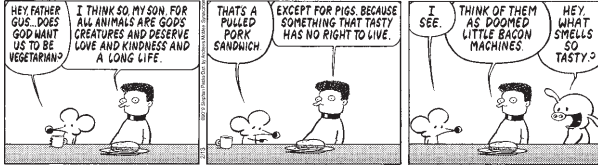
Frazz



Dilbert



Pearls Before Swine



Non Sequitur



Candorville



Carpe Diem



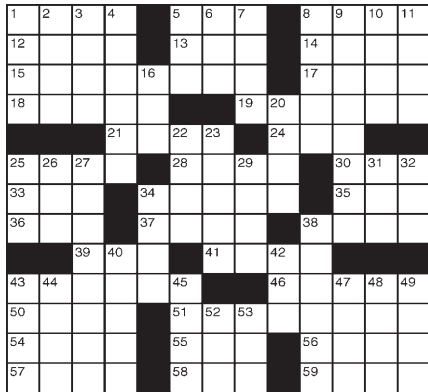
Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



ACROSS

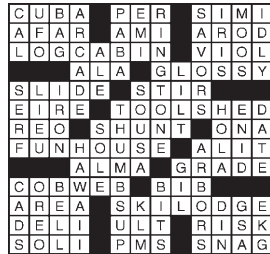
- 1 — Valley, Calif.
- 5 Indent key
- 8 Booty
- 12 Portent
- 13 Hot temper
- 14 Corduroy ridge
- 15 Arm of the Arctic Ocean
- 17 Desire
- 18 Sub detector
- 19 Sunflower State
- 21 Study all night
- 24 Pvt.'s superior
- 25 Salamander
- 28 Canal feature
- 30 Acapulco gold
- 33 "The Greatest"
- 34 Continental cash
- 35 "Awesome!"
- 36 Sweetie
- 37 Apple computer
- 38 Memory unit
- 39 A billion years
- 41 Crazy
- 43 Treat badly
- 46 Available
- 50 Contented sounds
- 51 Left the band
- 54 "— Rhythm"
- 55 Acres

- 58 Gym unit
- 59 Egyptian deity

DOWN

- 1 Scatters seeds
- 2 Texter's "As I see it"
- 3 Chow —
- 4 Unbroken
- 5 "— the season ..."
- 6 Exist
- 7 Toucan's feature
- 8 Tried to hit a homer
- 9 Veteran's tale
- 10 Pond growth
- 11 Pop music's Bee —
- 16 Goof up
- 20 Requests
- 22 Grad
- 23 Aesopian ending
- 25 "Unh-unh"
- 26 "Evil Woman" gp.
- 27 Port authority?
- 29 Designer Chanel
- 31 Squealer
- 32 Poetic tribute
- 34 Drei minus zwei
- 38 Dwarf tree
- 40 Expels
- 42 Camp bed
- 43 Postal delivery
- 44 "Othello" villain
- 45 Ornamental jug
- 47 Pitch
- 48 Jai —
- 49 Band in Boston?
- 52 Prior night
- 53 Snooze

Answer to Previous Puzzle



2-13

CRYPTOQUIP

Z QFBWZTLAM BUL E VLVVLQ

HZAA EAHFUW LKLQM UZTJAL

LKLTZTJ EW UBVVLQWZHL

ZW'U HM NEZAM JQZTN.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHAT COULD A FAST-FOOD HAMBURGER SMASHED AGAINST THE FRONT OF A CAR BE? A WINDSHIELD WHOPPER.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Q equals R


FREE AD Guidelines:

- Free ads are available only DOD ID Card holders selling personal merchandise.
- Ads may contain up to 32 words. All Ads must contain price and contact information. No websites will be accepted in Free ads.
- Stars and Stripes reserves the right to re-classify, rewrite and reject any ads.

STARS AND STRIPES[®]

CLASSIFIED

Go to stripes.com to place your free ad. *Sell fast/ Buy fast*

When you see this 
camera icon go to stripes.com
to view the uploaded photo.

EUROPE		MIDDLE EAST		PACIFIC
Advertising	Kristi Kimmel kimmel.kristi@stripes.com +49(0)631.3615-9013 DSN 314.583.9013	Kristi Kimmel kimmel.kristi@stripes.com +49(0)631.3615-9013 DSN 314.583.9013		Ichiro Katayanagi CustomerHelp@stripes.com +81(3) 6385.3267 DSN 315.229.3267
Circulation	Van Rowell rowell.van@stripes.com +49(0)631.3615.9111 DSN 314.583.9111	Robert Reismann reismann.robert@stripes.com +49(0)631.3615.9150 DSN 314.583.9150		Mari Matsumoto SSPcirculation@stripes.com +81(3) 6385.3171 DSN 315.229.3171
Reader Letters	letters@stripes.com	letters@stripes.com		letters@stripes.com

ClassifiedsEUROPE

For information on Commercial Rates: CIV: 0631-3615-9012 or DSN: 583-9012

Announcements 040

SCAM FADS

Classifieds scams can target both sellers and buyers with classified advertisements.

Be aware of the common red flags.
Some of the latest Scam flags are:

- Vehicle buyers wanting to buy sight unseen and have the vehicle shipped through an agent using paypal.
- People saying Free Dog (different breeds) for adoption.

Automotive 140

SELLER BEWARE

Individuals placing classified advertising should use discretion in concluding the sale of their property. Not all potential buyers are reputable or honest. Stars and Stripes suggests that you take precautions to ensure that potential buyers are reputable and will be able to fulfill the terms of the sale. Stars and Stripes is not liable for the contractual relationship between sellers and buyers of merchandise advertised in the newspaper or on the web site.

Tax Assistance 940



Germany H&R Block Tax
Offices Get face-to-face tax help.

Ramstein 06371-8020410	Wiesbaden 06134-256963	Vilseck 01735-736112
---------------------------	---------------------------	-------------------------

Email: eclemons@hrblock.com

Autos for Sale
- Germany 142

Auto - Quality Pre-owned
US SPEC Vehicles
www.vilseckautosales.com
Free Europe-wide delivery

Travel 1000

Winter in Garmisch
Hotel Forsthaus Oberau 8 km
N of Garmisch Hot tub/sauna
3Bour PP, DBL, occp. free bkfst.
dogs welcome. 08824-9120
www.forsthaus-oberau.de

Want a better picture?



You'll get one – just by reading
Stars and Stripes military
news coverage.
*In print • Online at stripes.com •
Mobile for Android, iPhone & iPad*
No one covers the bases
the way we do.

STARS AND STRIPES[®]

However you read us, wherever you need us.

Round-the-world news for America's military.



Stripes.com supplies constant updates, on news of interest — including reports from our overseas military bases in Europe, Pacific, Southwest Asia and the Mideast, and coverage of the Pentagon and Capitol Hill.
Also available on mobile apps for Android smartphones and as an iOS app for both iPhone and iPad.

STARS AND STRIPES[®]

Mobile • Online • Print

THE STARS AND STRIPES

Daily Newspaper of U.S. Armed Forces

in the European Theater of Operations

Vol. 1—No. 241

1 Fr.

1 Fr.

Sunday, March 25, 1945

For the troops

Stars and Stripes was a primary source of news for the troops at the Front and behind the lines in World War II. Although it printed only in the European theater during the war, it covered news from all theaters.



Support the Mission

Subscribe at [Stripes.com/digital](https://www.strips.com/digital) or email MemberServices@stripes.com to donate a subscription.

SCOREBOARD

Sports on AFN

Go to the American Forces Network website for the most up-to-date TV schedules. myafn.net

College hockey

NCAA Division I poll

MINNEAPOLIS — The top 20 teams in the NCAA Division I hockey poll, compiled by U.S. College Hockey Online, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Feb. 10 and previous rankings:

Rank	Team	Record	Pts
1	St. Cloud State (42)	21-4-3	889
2	Ohio State (6)	19-5-4	828
3	Massachusetts (1)	21-6-0	908
4	Minnesota Duluth (1)	17-7-2	808
5	Minnesota State (1)	24-6-2	798
6	Quinnipiac (1)	21-6-1	772
7	Denver (1)	15-6-4	706
8	Cornell (1)	15-6-2	626
9	Michigan State (1)	16-9-1	583
10	UMass Lowell (1)	17-8-2	498
11	Clarkson (1)	19-10-1	422
12	Providence (1)	16-9-5	369
13	Northwestern (1)	14-10-3	354
14	Notre Dame (1)	14-10-3	359
15	Penn State (1)	16-7-2	304
16	Harvard (1)	17-7-3	201
17	Lake Superior (1)	18-6-2	157
18	Union (1)	14-9-5	50

Others receiving votes: American International 26, North Dakota 26, Bentley 10, UMass 10, Michigan 3, Brown 2, Bemidji State 1.

Monday's scores

Tournament	Score
Beaumont Championship	Beaumont 4, Boston College 2
Consolation	Harvard 5, Boston U. 2

Deals

Monday's transactions

BASEBALL
AMERICAN LEAGUE
OAKLAND ATHLETICS — Agreed to terms with C Nick Hundley on a minor league contract.

NATIONAL LEAGUE
CHICAGO CUBS — Agreed to terms with RHP Brad Brach on a one-year contract.
CINCINNATI REDS — Signed LHP Zach Duke to a one-year contract. Designated RHP Jose Lopez for assignment.

PITTSBURGH PIRATES — Agreed to terms with OF Melky Cabrera on a minor league contract.

SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS — Agreed to terms with Stephen Vogt on a minor league contract.

BASKETBALL
NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION
CLEVELAND CAVALIERS — Signed G John Jenkins to a 10-day contract.

NEW YORK KNICKS — Signed G John Jenkins to a 10-day contract.

LOS ANGELES SPARKS — Re-signed G Alana Beard.

NEW YORK LIBERTY — Re-signed G Rebecca Alexander to a 10-day contract.

FOOTBALL
ATLANTA FALCONS — Signed LB Bruce Carter to a one-year contract.

INDIANA PANTHERS — Re-signed S Eric Reid to a three-year contract.

CINCINNATI BENGALS — Named Jamal Smith running back coach and Joe Boye strength and conditioning coach and Doug Rieff director of college operations. Claimed CB Brad Kaaya off waivers from Indianapolis.

LEVEL BROWNS — Signed RB Kareem Hunt.

ST. LOUIS LIONS — Re-signed LB Steve Longa and DE Mitchell Leven.

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS — Named Darren Rizzi special teams coordinator.

NEW YORK GIANTS — Named Mike Drexton outside linebackers coach and Henry Baker assistant defensive backs coach.

HOCKEY
NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE
CHICAGO BLACKHAWKS — Agreed to terms with G Collin Delia on a three-year contract. Signed G Dylan Sikura from Rockford (AHL).

LOS ANGELES KINGS — Traded F Nate Thompson and a 2019 fifth-round draft pick to Montreal for a 2019 fourth-round pick.

NEW JERSEY DEVILS — Assigned D Ryan Murphy to Springfield (AHL) and claimed F Kenny Agostino off waivers from Montreal.

OLYMPIC SCORES
USADA — Announced American cyclist Katie Compton accepted a four-year suspension for an anti-doping rule violation.

AP Men's top 25
The top 25 teams in The Associated Press' college basketball poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Feb. 10, total points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote and last week's rankings:

Rank	Team	Record	Pts
1	Tennessee (40)	22-1	1573
2	Duke (24)	21-2	1503
3	Gonzaga	23-2	1457
4	Virginia	20-2	1406
5	North Carolina	20-3	1330
6	Michigan	22-2	1253
7	Arizona	21-2	1222
8	North Carolina	19-4	1178
9	Houston	23-1	1022
10	Marquette	20-4	953
11	Michigan State	18-5	948
12	Purdue	17-6	900
13	Villanova	19-5	753
14	Kansas	19-5	749
15	Texas Tech	19-5	660
16	Louisville	17	542
17	Florida State	18-5	452
18	Kansas State	18-5	444
19	Wisconsin	19-4	437
20	Wisconsin	17	403
21	Virginia Tech	18-5	393
22	UCLA	19-5	389
23	Butler	18-6	396
24	Butler	20-3	170

Others receiving votes: Auburn 35, Washington 17, Lipscomb 15, TCU 5, Texas 5, Clemson 1.

USA Today Men's top 25
The top 25 teams in the USA Today men's college basketball poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Feb. 10, total points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote and previous rankings:

Rank	Team	Record	Pts
1	Tennessee (30)	22-1	798
2	Duke (2)	21-2	768
3	Virginia	20-2	731
4	Michigan	22-2	689
5	Kentucky	20-3	666
6	North Carolina	19-4	583
7	Houston	23-1	517
8	Arizona	21-2	483
9	Purdue	17-6	430
10	Michigan State	18-5	411
11	Villanova	19-5	411
12	Kansas	18-6	320
13	Texas Tech	18-5	266
14	Virginia Tech	18-5	266
15	Kansas State	18-5	233
16	Florida State	19-5	207
17	Louisville	19-4	200
18	Wisconsin	17-7	174
19	Wisconsin	17-7	174
20	Marquette	18-6	65

Others receiving votes: Cincinnati 45, Mississippi State 22, Auburn 13, Arizona 16, Furman 13, North Texas 13, Arkansas 12, Texas 6, NC State 5, Mississippi 4, Syracuse 2, Toledo 1.

Men's men's scores
EAST
Baruch 68, Lehman 43
Bucknell 87, Lehigh 75
SOUTH
Alabama St. 82, MVSU 59
Ark.-Pine Bluff 67, Alabama A&M 60
Christian Brothers 8, Union (Tenn.) 77
Grambling 55, Alcorn St. 53
Jacksonville 77, Central (Miss.) 77
Kentucky St. 77, Central (Miss.) 77
Louisiana Tech 61, Delta St. 61
NC Central 87, Delaware St. 52
North St. 66, Florida A&M 54
SC State 85, Coppin St. 84
Savannah St. 85, Morris Brown 85
Texas St. 76, Jackson St. 76
William Carey 68, North Carolina 61
Virginia Carle 70, NC State 86
MIDWEST
Doane 92, Haskell Indian Nations 63
Dyke 59, Oklahoma 53
Indiana 68, IU 68
Kansas 82, TCU 77, 0T
FAR WEST
Sacramento St. 78, Portland St. 67

Men's schedule
Wednesday, Feb. 13
Boston U. at Army
Clarkson at Virginia
Saint Louis at George Washington
Lafayette at Wake Forest
Mass.-Amherst at Albany (NY)
Duquesne at La Salle
Texas Tech at North Texas
UMBC at Temple
Louisville at Kentucky
SMU at Birmingham
Loyola (Md.) at American U.
Iona at Siena
Texas Tech at Holy Cross
North Carolina at Wake Forest
SOUTH
South Carolina at Tennessee
Longwood at High Point
Chapman at East Carolina
Marshall at North Carolina
Campbell at Stetson
Campbell at Gardner-Webb
Wake Forest at Florida St.
Richmond at VCU
South Florida at UCF
Presbyterian at Winthrop
Charlotte at Stetson
Trent at Georgia St.
Clemson at Miami

College basketball
Hampden at Campbell
UNC Asheville at SC-Upstate
Saint Albans at Georgia Southern
Kennesaw St. at North Florida
Georgia at Lipscomb
Incarnate Word at SE Louisiana
Abilene Christian at Nicholls
Belmont at North Carolina
Georgia Tech at Virginia Tech
Vanderbilt at Florida
MIDWEST
Rutgers at Northwestern
Missouri St. at Evansville
Illinois St. at North Iowa
University of Chicago at Bradley
Northwestern at Lamar
Creighton at Xavier
Minnesota at Nebraska
SOUTHWEST
McNeese St. at Stephen F. Austin
Houston Baptist at Cent. Arkansas
South Houston St. at Texas A&M-CC
Northwestern at Lamar
Texas Tech at Oklahoma St.
FAR WEST
Wyoming at Utah St.
San Jose St. at New Mexico
Northern St. at Cent. Arkansas
CS Northridge at UC Davis
UCLA at California
Boise St. at Fresno St.
Arizona St. at Colorado
San Diego St. at Stanford
Thursday, Feb. 14
St. Francis (Pa.) at Fairleigh Dickinson
Fairleigh Dickinson at St. Francis
CS at Wagner
Drexel at TCW
LIU Brooklyn at St. Francis Brooklyn
Houston at UConn
SOUTH
Hofstra at Col. of Charleston
Northeastern at UNC-Wilmington
North Texas at FAU
Rice at FIU
Drexel at James Madison
Tulane at Tulane
Mercer at UT Carolina
Texas Tech at Texas Tech
The Citadel at ETSU
Georgia Tech at Georgia Tech
UNC Greensboro at Furman
E. Kentucky at Morehead St.
Middle Tennessee at W. Kentucky
UAB at Marshall, 8 p.m.
Marquette at St. Louis
Jacksonville St. at Tennessee Tech
Missouri at Bowling Green
Belmont at Tennessee St.
Murray St. at Austin Peay
Kent St. at W. Michigan
Kent St. at W. Michigan
W. Michigan at SIU-Edwardsville
Ill.-Chicago at Cleveland St.
Illinois at Ohio St.
Tennessee at UMKC
IU/PUI at Youngstown St.
Missouri at Chicago St.
Oakland at Green Bay
Seattle at Milwaukee
Oral Roberts at N. Dakota St.
Seattle at Grand St.
S. Dakota St. at Nebraska-Omaha
SOUTHWEST
Texas-Arlington at Texas Tech
Texas State at Arkansas St.
Arizona at Utah
Purdue Fort Wayne at Denver
Utah Valley at New Mexico St.
Montana at Idaho St.
Montana at Weber St.
San State Barbara at UC Riverside
Idaho at Weber St.
N. Colorado at Idaho
Brigham Young at BYU
Portland at San Diego
Idaho at Weber St.
S. Utah at Sacramento St.
Idaho at Long Beach
Saint Mary's (Cal.) at Santa Clara
AP Women's top 25
The top 25 teams in The Associated Press' women's college basketball poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Feb. 10, total points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote and last week's rankings:

Rank	Team	Record	Pts
1	Baylor (22)	21-1	694
2	Louisiana (2)	21-1	664
3	Oregon (3)	21-1	663
4	Connecticut (2)	21-1	662
5	Mississippi St.	22-1	596
6	Notre Dame	22-2	553
7	Maryland	22-2	522
8	Marquette	21-3	513
9	Stanford	20-4	436
10	North Carolina	19-4	423
11	Stanford	17-5	403
12	NC State	21-2	400
13	Gonzaga	22-2	363
14	Texas	19-5	329
15	Texas	19-5	294
16	Kentucky	18-7	277
17	Kentucky	19-6	206
18	Louisville	19-6	206
19	Arizona St.	16-6	202
20	Miami	21-1	186
21	Iowa	20-4	166
22	Texas A&M	18-5	126
23	Texas A&M	17-6	105
24	Michigan St.	16-6	65

Others receiving votes: South Carolina 32, UF 32, Drake 1, UCLA 4, Rice 6, Missouri 3, Minnesota 2, West Virginia 2, Ohio 1, South Dakota 1.

Women's scores
EAST
Baruch 60, Lehman 43
Clarkson 85, Saint International 79
LIU Brooklyn 71, Mount St. Mary's 61
Robert Morris 60, CCSU 40

Women's schedule
Wednesday, Feb. 13
Saint Louis at Saint Louis
St. Francis (Pa.) at St. Francis Brooklyn 85
Wagner 87, St. Francis Brooklyn 85
Alabama A&M 60, Ark.-Pine Bluff 54
Alabama St. 73, MVSU 67
Belmont 78, Howard 78
Central (Miss.) 52, Jackson St. 53
Clemson 59, Southern U. 52
Coppin St. 85, Savannah St. 85
Delta St. 61, Louisville 61
Florida A&M 54, SC State 85
Georgia Southern 85, Morris Brown 85
Hawaii 68, North Carolina 61
Kentucky 77, Central (Miss.) 77
Louisiana Tech 61, Delta St. 61
NC Central 87, Delaware St. 52
North St. 66, Florida A&M 54
SC State 85, Coppin St. 84
Savannah St. 85, Morris Brown 85
Texas St. 76, Jackson St. 76
William Carey 68, North Carolina 61
Virginia Carle 70, NC State 86
MIDWEST
Doane 92, Haskell Indian Nations 63
Dyke 59, Oklahoma 53
Indiana 68, IU 68
Kansas 82, TCU 77, 0T
FAR WEST
Sacramento St. 78, Portland St. 67

Women's schedule
Wednesday, Feb. 13
Saint Louis at Saint Louis
St. Francis (Pa.) at St. Francis Brooklyn 85
Wagner 87, St. Francis Brooklyn 85
Alabama A&M 60, Ark.-Pine Bluff 54
Alabama St. 73, MVSU 67
Belmont 78, Howard 78
Central (Miss.) 52, Jackson St. 53
Clemson 59, Southern U. 52
Coppin St. 85, Savannah St. 85
Delta St. 61, Louisville 61
Florida A&M 54, SC State 85
Georgia Southern 85, Morris Brown 85
Hawaii 68, North Carolina 61
Kentucky 77, Central (Miss.) 77
Louisiana Tech 61, Delta St. 61
NC Central 87, Delaware St. 52
North St. 66, Florida A&M 54
SC State 85, Coppin St. 84
Savannah St. 85, Morris Brown 85
Texas St. 76, Jackson St. 76
William Carey 68, North Carolina 61
Virginia Carle 70, NC State 86
MIDWEST
Doane 92, Haskell Indian Nations 63
Dyke 59, Oklahoma 53
Indiana 68, IU 68
Kansas 82, TCU 77, 0T
FAR WEST
Sacramento St. 78, Portland St. 67

Women's schedule
Wednesday, Feb. 13
Saint Louis at Saint Louis
St. Francis (Pa.) at St. Francis Brooklyn 85
Wagner 87, St. Francis Brooklyn 85
Alabama A&M 60, Ark.-Pine Bluff 54
Alabama St. 73, MVSU 67
Belmont 78, Howard 78
Central (Miss.) 52, Jackson St. 53
Clemson 59, Southern U. 52
Coppin St. 85, Savannah St. 85
Delta St. 61, Louisville 61
Florida A&M 54, SC State 85
Georgia Southern 85, Morris Brown 85
Hawaii 68, North Carolina 61
Kentucky 77, Central (Miss.) 77
Louisiana Tech 61, Delta St. 61
NC Central 87, Delaware St. 52
North St. 66, Florida A&M 54
SC State 85, Coppin St. 84
Savannah St. 85, Morris Brown 85
Texas St. 76, Jackson St. 76
William Carey 68, North Carolina 61
Virginia Carle 70, NC State 86
MIDWEST
Doane 92, Haskell Indian Nations 63
Dyke 59, Oklahoma 53
Indiana 68, IU 68
Kansas 82, TCU 77, 0T
FAR WEST
Sacramento St. 78, Portland St. 67

Women's schedule
Wednesday, Feb. 13
Saint Louis at Saint Louis
St. Francis (Pa.) at St. Francis Brooklyn 85
Wagner 87, St. Francis Brooklyn 85
Alabama A&M 60, Ark.-Pine Bluff 54
Alabama St. 73, MVSU 67
Belmont 78, Howard 78
Central (Miss.) 52, Jackson St. 53
Clemson 59, Southern U. 52
Coppin St. 85, Savannah St. 85
Delta St. 61, Louisville 61
Florida A&M 54, SC State 85
Georgia Southern 85, Morris Brown 85
Hawaii 68, North Carolina 61
Kentucky 77, Central (Miss.) 77
Louisiana Tech 61, Delta St. 61
NC Central 87, Delaware St. 52
North St. 66, Florida A&M 54
SC State 85, Coppin St. 84
Savannah St. 85, Morris Brown 85
Texas St. 76, Jackson St. 76
William Carey 68, North Carolina 61
Virginia Carle 70, NC State 86
MIDWEST
Doane 92, Haskell Indian Nations 63
Dyke 59, Oklahoma 53
Indiana 68, IU 68
Kansas 82, TCU 77, 0T
FAR WEST
Sacramento St. 78, Portland St. 67

Women's schedule
Wednesday, Feb. 13
Saint Louis at Saint Louis
St. Francis (Pa.) at St. Francis Brooklyn 85
Wagner 87, St. Francis Brooklyn 85
Alabama A&M 60, Ark.-Pine Bluff 54
Alabama St. 73, MVSU 67
Belmont 78, Howard 78
Central (Miss.) 52, Jackson St. 53
Clemson 59, Southern U. 52
Coppin St. 85, Savannah St. 85
Delta St. 61, Louisville 61
Florida A&M 54, SC State 85
Georgia Southern 85, Morris Brown 85
Hawaii 68, North Carolina 61
Kentucky 77, Central (Miss.) 77
Louisiana Tech 61, Delta St. 61
NC Central 87, Delaware St. 52
North St. 66, Florida A&M 54
SC State 85, Coppin St. 84
Savannah St. 85, Morris Brown 85
Texas St. 76, Jackson St. 76
William Carey 68, North Carolina 61
Virginia Carle 70, NC State 86
MIDWEST
Doane 92, Haskell Indian Nations 63
Dyke 59, Oklahoma 53
Indiana 68, IU 68
Kansas 82, TCU 77, 0T
FAR WEST
Sacramento St. 78, Portland St. 67

Women's schedule
Wednesday, Feb. 13
Saint Louis at Saint Louis
St. Francis (Pa.) at St. Francis Brooklyn 85
Wagner 87, St. Francis Brooklyn 85
Alabama A&M 60, Ark.-Pine Bluff 54
Alabama St. 73, MVSU 67
Belmont 78, Howard 78
Central (Miss.) 52, Jackson St. 53
Clemson 59, Southern U. 52
Coppin St. 85, Savannah St. 85
Delta St. 61, Louisville 61
Florida A&M 54, SC State 85
Georgia Southern 85, Morris Brown 85
Hawaii 68, North Carolina 61
Kentucky 77, Central (Miss.) 77
Louisiana Tech 61, Delta St. 61
NC Central 87, Delaware St. 52
North St. 66, Florida A&M 54
SC State 85, Coppin St. 84
Savannah St. 85, Morris Brown 85
Texas St. 76, Jackson St. 76
William Carey 68, North Carolina 61
Virginia Carle 70, NC State 86
MIDWEST
Doane 92, Haskell Indian Nations 63
Dyke 59, Oklahoma 53
Indiana 68, IU 68
Kansas 82, TCU 77, 0T
FAR WEST
Sacramento St. 78, Portland St. 67

Women's schedule
Wednesday, Feb. 13
Saint Louis at Saint Louis
St. Francis (Pa.) at St. Francis Brooklyn 85
Wagner 87, St. Francis Brooklyn 85
Alabama A&M 60, Ark.-Pine Bluff 54
Alabama St. 73, MVSU 67
Belmont 78, Howard 78
Central (Miss.) 52, Jackson St. 53
Clemson 59, Southern U. 52
Coppin St. 85, Savannah St. 85
Delta St. 61, Louisville 61
Florida A&M 54, SC State 85
Georgia Southern 85, Morris Brown 85
Hawaii 68, North Carolina 61
Kentucky 77, Central (Miss.) 77
Louisiana Tech 61, Delta St. 61
NC Central 87, Delaware St. 52
North St. 66, Florida A&M 54
SC State 85, Coppin St. 84
Savannah St. 85, Morris Brown 85
Texas St. 76, Jackson St. 76
William Carey 68, North Carolina 61
Virginia Carle 70, NC State 86
MIDWEST
Doane 92, Haskell Indian Nations 63
Dyke 59, Oklahoma 53
Indiana 68, IU 68
Kansas 82, TCU 77, 0T
FAR WEST
Sacramento St. 78, Portland St. 67

Women's schedule
Wednesday, Feb. 13
Saint Louis at Saint Louis
St. Francis (Pa.) at St. Francis Brooklyn 85
Wagner 87, St. Francis Brooklyn 85
Alabama A&M 60, Ark.-Pine Bluff 54
Alabama St. 73, MVSU 67
Belmont 78, Howard 78
Central (Miss.) 52, Jackson St. 53
Clemson 59, Southern U. 52
Coppin St. 85, Savannah St. 85
Delta St. 61, Louisville 61
Florida A&M 54, SC State 85
Georgia Southern 85, Morris Brown 85
Hawaii 68, North Carolina 61
Kentucky 77, Central (Miss.) 77
Louisiana Tech 61, Delta St. 61
NC Central 87, Delaware St. 52
North St. 66, Florida A&M 54
SC State 85, Coppin St. 84
Savannah St. 85, Morris Brown 85
Texas St. 76, Jackson St. 76
William Carey 68, North Carolina 61
Virginia Carle 70, NC State 86
MIDWEST
Doane 92, Haskell Indian Nations 63
Dyke 59, Oklahoma 53
Indiana 68, IU 68
Kansas 82, TCU 77, 0T
FAR WEST
Sacramento St. 78, Portland St. 67

Women's schedule
Wednesday, Feb. 13
Saint Louis at Saint Louis
St. Francis (Pa.) at St. Francis Brooklyn 85
Wagner 87, St. Francis Brooklyn 85
Alabama A&M 60, Ark.-Pine Bluff 54
Alabama St. 73, MVSU 67
Belmont 78, Howard 78
Central (Miss.) 52, Jackson St. 53
Clemson 59, Southern U. 52
Coppin St. 85, Savannah St. 85
Delta St. 61, Louisville 61
Florida A&M 54, SC State 85
Georgia Southern 85, Morris Brown 85
Hawaii 68, North Carolina 61
Kentucky 77, Central (Miss.) 77
Louisiana Tech 61, Delta St. 61
NC Central 87, Delaware St. 52
North St. 66, Florida A&M 54
SC State 85, Coppin St. 84
Savannah St. 85, Morris Brown 85
Texas St. 76, Jackson St. 76
William Carey 68, North Carolina 61
Virginia Carle 70, NC State 86
MIDWEST
Doane 92, Haskell Indian Nations 63
Dyke 59, Oklahoma 53
Indiana 68, IU 68
Kansas 82, TCU 77, 0T
FAR WEST
Sacramento St. 78, Portland St. 67

Women's schedule
Wednesday, Feb. 13
Saint Louis at Saint Louis
St. Francis (Pa.) at St. Francis Brooklyn 85
Wagner 87, St. Francis Brooklyn 85
Alabama A&M 60, Ark.-Pine Bluff 54
Alabama St. 73, MVSU 67
Belmont 78, Howard 78
Central (Miss.) 52, Jackson St. 53
Clemson 59, Southern U. 52
Coppin St. 85, Savannah St. 85
Delta St. 61, Louisville 61
Florida A&M 54, SC State 85
Georgia Southern 85, Morris Brown 85
Hawaii 68, North Carolina 61
Kentucky 77, Central (Miss.) 77
Louisiana Tech 61, Delta St. 61
NC Central 87, Delaware St. 52
North St. 66, Florida A&M 54
SC State 85, Coppin St. 84
Savannah St. 85, Morris Brown 85
Texas St. 76, Jackson St. 76
William Carey 68, North Carolina 61
Virginia Carle 70, NC State 86
MIDWEST
Doane 92

BOBSLEDDING/NHL

Aiming: Lynch, coach share common history

FROM BACK PAGE

being in a jet plane with a monkey ripping the controls around, dealing with an angry Mike Tyson.” Lynch’s journey would be interesting enough, but there’s another twist — the guy who coaches him.

In the fall, Lynch met Nick Cunningham, who competed in the past three Olympics and is an Army National Guard sergeant. Oh, and like Lynch, he’s also a Boise State graduate. Though their time at the school overlapped, they had never met one another.

“It’s wild how people get into this sport,” said Cunningham, who was a sprinter for the Broncos’ track and field team. “There’s people from all walks of life, but you tell me 10 years after we’re in Boise together, we’ll meet in up-state New York bobsledding? It’s amazing.”

Part of Lynch’s next step is turning himself from a raw athlete into a bobsledder. He is stationed in Florida, where there aren’t exactly a ton of bobsled runs, so his focus is on developing his sprinting abilities. He hasn’t even had an off-season to work on it yet.

Cunningham said the pair quickly became friends with their Boise backgrounds, but he was impressed with more than Lynch’s abilities when a crash sidelined the rookie for a few weeks with concussion symptoms.

“We need more guys like him, because it wasn’t like he got hurt and we never saw him again,” he was out at the track helping the guys who were out there get better,” Cunningham said. “He’s as green as anyone, but he’s fast, he’s strong, he’s a good teammate and those three components, if you have those, we can work with you. He’s a valuable asset, and if

he keeps going like he has, he’ll go far.”

That bright athletic future was reignited after it seemingly was dimmed more than a dozen years earlier.

At Timberline (Idaho) High School, Lynch was a second-team all-conference linebacker in 2000 and, as a junior in 2001, was a first-team linebacker and second-team running back. On the first offensive play for the Wolves in 2002, he broke a leg. He’d forced a fumble on defense to give Timberline the ball.

Eight months later, he qualified for the Class 5A state track and field meet and took fifth in the 100 meters and third in the 200. But when he got hurt, he felt some pressure taken off and wasn’t worried about scholarships. Lynch said he was “hanging out with a lot of snowboarders and hippies,” so sports wouldn’t be in his collegiate future.

There was interest in him as a football player and, even after he was hurt, schools were in contact, including Boise State — likely to add him as a walk-on. But Lynch said he “just rejected all of it.”

“I was watching that first Fiesta Bowl [on Jan. 1, 2007], thinking, ‘I probably could have been on this team,’ realized I probably wasted a lot of potential,” Lynch said. “... If there’s a silver lining, everything that’s happened in these last few months, it kind of validated me as an athlete.”

Lynch has found a place for his abilities, even if it took longer than he ever expected, in perhaps the last sport he ever expected. He’ll compete Feb. 15-16 in Lake Placid, N.Y., in a World Cup event, the next step toward a dream he never knew he had.

“I didn’t know what would happen, but there’s always been that competitive drive,” Lynch said.



JOSEPH PICK/Courtesy of U.S. Air Force

Capt. Dakota Lynch, right, a U-28 pilot with the 34th Special Operations Squadron, talks to teammates before practice at the International Bobsled and Skeleton Federation North American Cup on Nov. 15 in Park City, Utah. Lynch was selected as a push athlete to compete with the U.S. national team.



MATT SLOCUM/AP

The Pittsburgh Penguins' Phil Kessel, right, pins the Flyers' Robert Hagg against the boards during Monday's game in Philadelphia.

NHL scoreboard

Eastern Conference							Monday							
Atlantic Division							Capitals 6, Kings 4							
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
Tampa Bay	56	41	11	4	86	217	156	Los Angeles	57	33	1	3	1—0	
Toronto	56	31	17	8	70	182	145	Washington	57	27	2	0	0—1	
Boston	56	31	17	8	70	182	145	First Period —1, Washington, Ovechkin 1:04.						
Montreal	56	31	17	8	69	172	162	4:59, Washington, Oshie 2:07, Connor 2:08.						
Buffalo	55	27	21	6	62	162	145	6:39, Washington, Oshie 2:07, Connor 2:08.						
Florida	54	23	23	8	54	168	189	8:59, Washington, Oshie 2:07, Connor 2:08.						
Detroit	56	21	28	9	49	156	182	11:57, Washington, Oshie 2:07, Connor 2:08.						
Ottawa	55	21	29	5	47	172	201	14:29, Washington, Oshie 2:07, Connor 2:08.						
Metropolitan Division							Penguins 4, Flyers 1							
N.Y. Islanders	53	16	36	6	72	160	133	GP <th>W</th> <th>L</th> <th>OT</th> <th>Pts</th> <th>GF</th> <th>GA</th>	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Washington	56	31	18	7	69	192	157	Los Angeles	57	33	1	3	1—0	
Nashville	54	20	20	3	65	177	157	Washington	57	27	2	0	0—1	
Pittsburgh	56	31	20	7	65	193	173	First Period —1, Pittsburgh, Crosby 2:14.						
Carolina	56	28	22	5	63	163	163	4:59, Washington, Oshie 2:07, Connor 2:08.						
St. Louis	56	24	24	5	59	155	159	6:39, Washington, Oshie 2:07, Connor 2:08.						
N.Y. Rangers	55	23	24	8	57	162	186	8:59, Washington, Oshie 2:07, Connor 2:08.						
Chicago	56	23	24	9	56	159	182	11:57, Washington, Oshie 2:07, Connor 2:08.						
New Jersey	55	21	26	8	50	159	188	14:29, Washington, Oshie 2:07, Connor 2:08.						
Western Conference							Penguins 4, Flyers 1							
Central Division							Penguins 4, Flyers 1							
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
Winnipeg	56	35	18	3	73	194	160	Los Angeles	57	33	1	3	1—0	
Nashville	56	33	20	5	71	180	151	Washington	57	27	2	0	0—1	
Dallas	56	28	22	5	61	142	146	First Period —1, Pittsburgh, Crosby 2:14.						
Minnesota	56	27	24	5	59	156	162	4:59, Washington, Oshie 2:07, Connor 2:08.						
Colorado	55	22	22	11	55	180	183	6:39, Washington, Oshie 2:07, Connor 2:08.						
Chicago	56	23	24	9	55	182	203	8:59, Washington, Oshie 2:07, Connor 2:08.						
Pacific Division							Penguins 4, Flyers 1							
San Jose	57	34	16	7	75	210	177	GP <th>W</th> <th>L</th> <th>OT</th> <th>Pts</th> <th>GF</th> <th>GA</th>	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Calgary	55	34	15	6	74	202	161	Los Angeles	57	33	1	3	1—0	
Vegas	57	32	19	7	70	197	170	Washington	57	27	2	0	0—1	
Vancouver	57	25	25	7	59	181	181	First Period —1, Pittsburgh, Crosby 2:14.						
Arizona	55	24	26	5	53	145	161	4:59, Washington, Oshie 2:07, Connor 2:08.						
Edmonton	56	24	26	6	53	159	184	6:39, Washington, Oshie 2:07, Connor 2:08.						
Los Angeles	56	23	28	5	51	136	171	8:59, Washington, Oshie 2:07, Connor 2:08.						
Anaheim	56	21	26	9	51	127	182	11:57, Washington, Oshie 2:07, Connor 2:08.						
Notes: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.														
Sunday's games														
St. Louis 5, Nashville 4, OT														
New Jersey 3, Carolina 2														
Boston 2, Colorado 1, OT														
Winnipeg 3, Buffalo 1														
Chicago 5, Detroit 2														
N.Y. Islanders 2, Minnesota 1														
N.Y. Rangers 4, Toronto 1														
Monday's games														
Washington 6, Los Angeles 4														
Pittsburgh 4, Philadelphia 1														
San Jose 7, Vancouver 2														
Tuesday's games														
Washington 19, Los Angeles 1														
Calgary at Buffalo														
Dallas at Florida														
Chicago at Boston														
Calgary at Tampa Bay														
Carolina at Ottawa														
Philadelphia at Minnesota														
N.Y. Rangers at Winnipeg														
New Jersey at St. Louis														
Detroit at Nashville														
Toronto at Colorado														
Wednesday's games														
Edmonton at Pittsburgh														
Vancouver at Anaheim														
Thursday's games														
N.Y. Islanders at Columbus														
Calgary at Florida														
Ottawa at Detroit														
Dallas at Tampa Bay														
Colorado at Winnipeg														
Montreal at Nashville														
New Jersey at Chicago														
St. Louis at Arizona														
Toronto at Vegas														
Vancouver at Los Angeles														
Washington at San Jose														

NHL roundup

Penguins hammer Flyers

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Matt Murray guzzled a sports drink through part of his postgame interview. It's not surprising the Pittsburgh Penguins goalie needed to rehydrate after such an intense outing.

Murray made a career-high 50 saves and Sidney Crosby had a goal and an assist to lead the Penguins to a 4-1 victory over the Philadelphia Flyers on Monday night.

“When you're out there, you don't really think about that,” Murray said of the shot total. “You just do what you can to try to stop the puck.”

Jake Guentzel and Nick Bjugstad also scored and Kris Letang had an empty-netter for the Penguins, who snapped a four-game losing streak while winning for just the fourth time in 12 games. Pittsburgh entered holding the final wild-card spot in the Eastern Conference.

Murray was a wall for the Penguins, withstanding an offensive flurry by Philadelphia that included a franchise-record 28 shots in the second period.

“He was great, especially in the second period,” coach Mike Sullivan said. “That's the type of game he's capable of.”

Jakub Voracek scored for Philadelphia's second time for just the second time in 11 games. The Flyers now stand eight points behind the Penguins.

Capitals 6, Kings 4: Evgeny Kuznetsov had two goals and two assists to lead host Washington over Los Angeles.

Alex Ovechkin scored his NHL-leading 38th goal and had two assists and Brett Connolly, Christian Djoos and Jakub Vanek scored for the Capitals, who won for the third time in four games.

Kings goalie Jonathan Quick allowed six goals on 31 shots behind some uneven defense. Austin Wagner scored twice and Tyler Toffoli and Oscar Pettersen had goals for Los Angeles, which went 3-2 in its six-game trip.

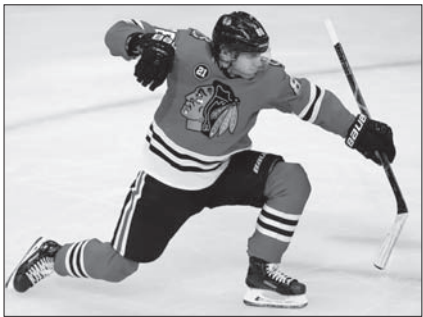
Sharks 7, Canucks 2: Evander Kane scored twice, leading visiting San Jose past Vancouver.

The victory moves San Jose into first place in the Western Conference and extends the Sharks' winning streak to six games.

Timo Herrin, Melker Karlsson, Tomas Hertl, Kevin Lebanc and Joe Pavelski also scored for the Sharks. Martin Jones had 25 saves.

Bo Horvat and Derrick Pouliot scored for Vancouver. Mike DiPietro stopped 17 of 24 shots in his NHL debut.

NHL



NAM Y. HUN/AP

Blackhawks right wing Patrick Kane celebrates after scoring a goal against the Red Wings on Sunday in Chicago.

Kane puts Chicago back in contention

By JAY COHEN
Associated Press

CHICAGO — Somewhere along the way, while Patrick Kane was piling up points and the special teams were rounding into form, the talk around the Chicago Blackhawks shifted from draft positioning to the wild-card standings.

Another surprising turn in a strange season.

After two eight-game losing streaks, a coaching change and a handful of trades and minor league promotions, Chicago is somehow in the mix for a playoff spot in the congested Western Conference. The Blackhawks' second line of Dominik Kahn, Dylan Strome and Alex DeBrincat accounted for nine points in Sunday's 5-2 victory over Detroit, running their win streak to a season-high seven in a row.

"We're better than we were before and now we're going to need to keep getting better," said coach Jeremy Colliton, who took over after Joel Quenneville was fired on Nov. 6.

The Blackhawks (23-24-9) are just four points back of Minnesota for the second wild card heading into Tuesday's games. But they also are just four points ahead of Anaheim and Los Angeles in last place in the conference. The last nine teams out West are separated by eight points.

For now, Colliton is more focused on how Chicago is playing than anything else.

"We've got to make sure we don't think we're just going to show up and it'll just happen. We've got to work," Colliton said. "We've got to do the right things and if you do it for close to 60 minutes we'll get the points we want and I'm pretty sure the standings will sort out."

While the Blackhawks struggled for much of the first half of the season, Kane has been a constant force in a performance reminiscent of when he won the Hart Trophy for NHL MVP in 2016. The All-Star forward has 11 goals and 20 assists during a 14-game

point streak — the longest active streak in the NHL.

After Detroit pulled within one in the third period, Kane scored his 33rd goal and then assisted on Jonathan Toews' empty-netter to help wrap it up for Chicago.

"He's always involved," Colliton said. "When he's on the ice, the other team knows he's a threat and that's nice for us to have."

Toews and DeBrincat also have been solid this year, but one of the biggest keys to Chicago's turnaround has been its scoring depth. Strome has four goals and 12 assists in his last nine games. Kahn had two goals and an assist against the Red Wings.

The 21-year-old Strome came over in a Nov. 25 trade with Arizona. He had a disappointing start to his career after the Coyotes took him with the No. 3 pick in the 2015 draft, but he seems to be coming into his own since joining the Blackhawks and being reunited with DeBrincat after they played together in junior hockey.

"I'm having fun playing hockey again," Strome said. "The team's winning, producing offensively. I'm winning some face-offs and helping the team win. Obviously when the team wins, everyone looks better. Everyone has a good mood in the room."

Chicago's improved power play also has produced some big goals of late. The Blackhawks have converted at least one power-play opportunity in 15 of their last 18 games, going 23-for-59 for a 39 percent success rate over that stretch.

Mix in some solid goaltending by Cam Ward and Collin Delia, and there is a glimmer of hope for the Blackhawks after they missed the playoffs last season for the first time in a decade.

"I love that we're playing for something and that guys have that belief in the locker room that if we keep doing what we're doing, we're going to give ourselves an opportunity," Ward said. "Obviously you take care of what you can control. We want to keep this thing rolling."

Losing ground

Avs out to stop slide during dismal stretch

By PAT GRAHAM
Associated Press

DENVER — The Colorado Avalanche could point to obvious flaws for their prolonged plunge: Erratic goaltenders, floundering special teams, inconsistent scoring from players not on their top line.

Or just go with the more direct one.

"We just haven't played good enough," captain Gabriel Landeskog said.

The Avalanche were tied for the most points in the Western Conference after games on Dec. 7. Two months and a 5-15-6 record later, they're trying to get on track and climb back into playoff contention. It's been a perplexing freefall for an Avalanche team that hasn't won since Jan. 19.

"Everybody's kind of taking their individual games down a couple of notches," said Landeskog, whose team hosted Toronto on Tuesday looking to break a seven-game slide (0-4-3). "That adds up to the team not desperate enough, not hungry enough, not fast enough, not physical enough."

The silver lining to this grisly stretch: Colorado (22-22-11, 55 points) still sit just four points out of a playoff spot entering Monday. Any other year, the deficit probably would be even greater.

"We're lucky," center Nathan MacKinnon said. "We're lucky the West is bad this year. If we were in the East, we'd be [eight] points out. So, we're lucky everyone's kind of lost separately. It's been weird. We had a great start. We were first in our division and we've been just losing ever since, so we're lucky. It feels like we're 30 points out, but we're only [four] and we need to remind ourselves of that."

Colorado finished a three-game trip with three straight overtime losses. Those are a valuable three

points earned in defeat, but the team desperately needs wins.

"It's been two months we've been losing, so if we don't get wins we're not happy," said MacKinnon, whose team dropped to 1-11 in OT games this season. "We need wins. That's all that really matters."

General manager Joe Sakic recently gave the reeling team a vote of confidence. Playoffs are still firmly on his mind.

"I believe in the guys in that dressing room, that we can right the ship," Sakic said. "I know they believe it. Right now, the confidence is a little low."

Colorado's role at the trade deadline on Feb. 25 could be decided over the next few games. Once potential buyers — or comfortable making no moves — the team could become sellers. One thing Sakic won't do is mortgage the future. He said the two first-round picks are off limits, along with some of their prized prospects.

"For us, it's got to make sense going forward," Sakic said of a deal.

The recent struggles in net have plagued Colorado. Semyon Varlamov is 13-13-8 with a 2.91 goals-against average. Backup Philipp Grubauer hasn't been any more steady, going 9-7-3 with a 3.47 goals-against.

"Got to get them playing with a little more confidence," Sakic said.

The power play of late has been problematic, too. Since Dec. 8, they're last in the league in penalty kill percentage and 21st in converting power play chances.

Colorado also is looking for more secondary scoring to help out the top line of Landeskog, MacKinnon and Mikko Rantanen, which has combined for 206 points.



PHOTOS BY DAVID ZALUBOWSKI/AP

Goaltender Semyon Varlamov has struggled for the Avs, going 13-13-8 with a 2.91 goals-against average.

"Obviously, everything is magnified when you lose," MacKinnon said. "When you win, those mistakes kind of get covered up and you don't really see them in video or things like that. So, it's been tough. Obviously, a lot of negativity, but we've played some decent games."

Sakic remains firmly in the corner of coach Jared Bednar, who led the Avalanche back to the postseason a year ago — he was a coach of the year finalist — after going 22-56-4 in his first season.

"The problem is not coaching at all," Sakic said. "We have good systems."

The skid hasn't soured the locker room, MacKinnon said.

"Some losing teams kind of turn on each other, but everyone has each other's backs and we're trying to win with each other," MacKinnon said. "We know [with] losing comes changes and we don't want to change our team. So, the mood is still pretty good."

"I think that's the only way to get out of it. If you hang your head and be negative, I think you're just kind of doomed from there. So we're still positive."



Avalanche defensemen Patrik Nemeth, right and Nikita Zadorov play on Jan. 19, the last time Colorado won a game. The team is 5-15-6 since Dec. 7, when Colorado was tied for most points in the Western Conference.

NBA

Roundup

Westbrook sets triple-double mark

Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY — Chalk up another triple-double record for Russell Westbrook.

Westbrook set an NBA record with his 10th straight triple-double, Paul George scored 47 points, and the Oklahoma City Thunder beat the Portland Trail Blazers 120-111 on Monday night.

Westbrook broke a tie with Walt Chamberlain, who had nine straight triple-doubles in 1968, by finishing with 21 points, 14 rebounds and 11 assists. Westbrook already was the only person to average a triple-double in consecutive seasons, and he set the single-season record for triple-doubles with 42 in 2016-17.

He downplayed this record while still showing respect for Chamberlain.

"I just can play the game the right way," he said. "It's what I do. Go out and compete every night and leave it on the floor, and whatever happens, happens. I'm very, very blessed to be able to go out and play, and I don't take it for granted."

Westbrook clinched the record on an assist to George for a three-pointer with 3:52 remaining in the fourth quarter.

"I thought he had it already," George joked. "Usually, Russ has that by the first quarter. I didn't know it was that close."

It was Westbrook's 23rd triple-double of the season and the 127th of his career. Most important to the Thunder, the team has a 9-1 record during his triple-double runs.

"I do know the most important thing for him to win," Thunder coach Billy Donovan said. "That's what he's about. He wants to win. I think a lot of the things he does that he gets attention for in terms of the triple-doubles are things that impact winning for our team."

George had 12 rebounds and 10 assists for the third triple-double of his career. Rookie Deonte Burton had a career-high 18 points and Raymond Felton added a season-high 15 for the Thunder.

Rockets 120, Mavericks 104: James Harden scored 31 points for his 30th straight 30-point game despite dealing with a shoulder injury, leading host Houston over Dallas.

Harden, who had eight rebounds and seven assists, seemed to be a bit slowed early by the strained left shoulder that he injured on Saturday against Oklahoma City, making just one of his first seven shots. But he warmed up after that and finished 9-for-23, capped by his sixth three-pointer with less than a minute left to put him over 30 and keep the streak going.

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division			
	W	L	Pct
Toronto	12	7	.630
Philadelphia	36	20	.643
Boston	32	24	.571
Brooklyn	29	29	.500
New York	18	37	.327

Southeast Division			
	W	L	Pct
Charlotte	27	29	.482
Orlando	25	32	.439
Washington	24	33	.421
Atlanta	18	38	.321

Central Division			
	W	L	Pct
Milwaukee	42	14	.750
Indiana	29	27	.519
Detroit	26	29	.473
Chicago	13	44	.228
Cleveland	12	45	.211

Western Conference			
Southwest Division			
	W	L	Pct
Houston	33	23	.589
San Antonio	32	26	.552
Dallas	26	30	.464
New Orleans	23	33	.410
Memphis	23	34	.404

Northwest Division			
	W	L	Pct
Denver	38	18	.679
Oklahoma City	37	19	.661
Golden State	32	23	.583
Utah	32	24	.571
Minnesota	24	32	.432

Pacific Division			
	W	L	Pct
Los Angeles	30	27	.524
Golden State	30	26	.536
L.A. Clippers	28	28	.500
Sacramento	28	30	.484
Phoenix	27	30	.475

Monday's games			
Cleveland 107, New York 104			
Indiana 99, Charlotte 90			
Toronto 127, Brooklyn 125			
Houston 120, Dallas 104			
Milwaukee 112, Chicago 99			
Minnesota 130, L.A. Clippers 122			
Oklahoma City 120, Portland 111			
Denver 103, Miami 87			

Tuesday's games			
L.A. Lakers at Atlanta			
Boston at Philadelphia			
Orlando at New Orleans			
San Antonio at Memphis			
Utah at Golden State			

Wednesday's games			
Brooklyn at Cleveland			
Charlotte at Indiana			
Detroit at Boston			
Golden State at New York			
Washington at Toronto			
Houston at Minnesota			
Chicago at Chicago			
Miami at Dallas			
San Antonio at Denver			
Golden State at Portland			
Portland at L.A. Clippers			

Thursday's games			
Charlotte at Atlanta			
New York at Atlanta			
Oklahoma City at New Orleans			

Friday's games			
Golden State at Chicago			
San Antonio at Dallas			
Portland at L.A. Clippers			
Golden State at Portland			
Portland at L.A. Clippers			
Charlotte at Atlanta			
New York at Atlanta			
Oklahoma City at New Orleans			

Saturday's games			
Golden State at Chicago			
San Antonio at Dallas			
Portland at L.A. Clippers			
Golden State at Portland			
Portland at L.A. Clippers			
Charlotte at Atlanta			
New York at Atlanta			
Oklahoma City at New Orleans			

Sunday's games			
Golden State at Chicago			
San Antonio at Dallas			
Portland at L.A. Clippers			
Golden State at Portland			
Portland at L.A. Clippers			
Charlotte at Atlanta			
New York at Atlanta			
Oklahoma City at New Orleans			

Monday's games			
Golden State at Chicago			
San Antonio at Dallas			
Portland at L.A. Clippers			
Golden State at Portland			
Portland at L.A. Clippers			
Charlotte at Atlanta			
New York at Atlanta			
Oklahoma City at New Orleans			

Tuesday's games			
Golden State at Chicago			
San Antonio at Dallas			
Portland at L.A. Clippers			
Golden State at Portland			
Portland at L.A. Clippers			
Charlotte at Atlanta			
New York at Atlanta			
Oklahoma City at New Orleans			

Wednesday's games			
Golden State at Chicago			
San Antonio at Dallas			
Portland at L.A. Clippers			
Golden State at Portland			
Portland at L.A. Clippers			
Charlotte at Atlanta			
New York at Atlanta			
Oklahoma City at New Orleans			

Thursday's games			
Golden State at Chicago			
San Antonio at Dallas			
Portland at L.A. Clippers			
Golden State at Portland			
Portland at L.A. Clippers			
Charlotte at Atlanta			
New York at Atlanta			
Oklahoma City at New Orleans			

Friday's games			
Golden State at Chicago			
San Antonio at Dallas			
Portland at L.A. Clippers			
Golden State at Portland			
Portland at L.A. Clippers			
Charlotte at Atlanta			
New York at Atlanta			
Oklahoma City at New Orleans			

Saturday's games			
Golden State at Chicago			
San Antonio at Dallas			
Portland at L.A. Clippers			
Golden State at Portland			
Portland at L.A. Clippers			
Charlotte at Atlanta			
New York at Atlanta			
Oklahoma City at New Orleans			

Sunday's games			
Golden State at Chicago			
San Antonio at Dallas			
Portland at L.A. Clippers			
Golden State at Portland			
Portland at L.A. Clippers			
Charlotte at Atlanta			
New York at Atlanta			
Oklahoma City at New Orleans			

Monday's games			
Golden State at Chicago			
San Antonio at Dallas			
Portland at L.A. Clippers			
Golden State at Portland			
Portland at L.A. Clippers			
Charlotte at Atlanta			
New York at Atlanta			
Oklahoma City at New Orleans			

Bucks 112, Bulls 99

MILWAUKEE — Middleton 6-13 3-3 16, Antetokounmpo 9-13 9-14 29, B.Lopez 3-10 0-0 7, Bledsoe 5-8 6-6 19, Brogdon 5-9 0-4 17, Wood 0-0 0-0 0, Ilyasova 5-9 0-0 12, Wilson 0-1 0-0 0, Duval 0-0 0-0 0, Hill 0-3 2-2, Brown 2-6 0-0 4, Connaughton 1-1 0-0 3, Small 2-6 0-0 4. Totals 38-80 24-39 113.

NFL/SPORTS BRIEFS

On football

Browns believe Hunt worthy of a chance

By TOM WITHERS
Associated Press

BEREA, Ohio — The lasting visual of Kareem Hunt's second NFL season wasn't him stiff-arming a linebacker, shedding a tackle or barreling over a cornerback at the goal line for a touchdown.

It was Hunt pushing a young woman and then kicking her while she was defenseless on the floor.

That moment caught on a surveillance camera mortified the sports world and led to the Kansas City Chiefs parting ways with one of their best players, a move universally admired.

The Cleveland Browns found it offensive as well. However, they also believe it was a random act by a good-hearted young man who feels remorseful and deserves another chance.

On Monday, the Browns, who seemed to finally emerge from years of gloom, doom and dysfunction by winning seven games behind rookie quarterback Baker Mayfield this past season, signed Hunt to a one-year contract.

The shocking signing came while the league continues to investigate Hunt's behavior in an incident that took place in a downtown hotel lobby last February. It came just weeks after Cleveland's turnaround season following an 0-16 calamity that resulted in the hiring of new coach Freddie Kitchens, whose appointment created more momentum for a franchise that has spent the last 20 years spinning its wheels.

The Browns feel they're doing the right thing. Time will tell. Hunt remains on the commissioner's exempt list and could receive a significant suspension.

General manager John Dorsey, who drafted Hunt in the third round in 2017 while he was with Kansas City, said the decision to sign the 23-year-old was rooted in his Christian faith. Hunt has shown contrition, sought counseling and treatment, and vowed to never make the same mistake.

That's enough for Dorsey, who said nothing is guaranteed and that he will have zero



KELVIN KUBIK/AP

Running back Kareem Hunt led the league in rushing during his rookie season with 1,327 yards and was having another highly productive year (824 rushing yards and 14 total touchdowns in just 11 games) in his second season before the Chiefs abruptly cut him because of an off-field incident. The Browns believe it was a random act by a young man who feels remorse and deserves a second chance.

tolerance for further wrongdoings by Hunt. "You guys always hear me talk about men of character," he told reporters, who met with the GM in a conference room for 25 minutes not long after the team announced Hunt's signing. "I'll stand by that. I see a lot of men of character who commit egregious acts. But at the end of the day, they learn from those acts, moved forward and became better people. Again, I believe in second chances."

Dorsey was adamant that the Browns completed a "thorough" investigation — the league's inquiry is still not complete — before signing Hunt and that owners Deo and

Jimmy Haslam approved the decision to add another troubled player (see Johnny Manziel, Josh Gordon) to Cleveland's roster.

However, Dorsey said the team's diligence did not include speaking with the woman seen on the tape.

Later, standing in the lobby of the team's headquarters in front of a generic backdrop and not one that would typically feature one of the team's corporate sponsors, Dorsey was asked what his message would be to any female employees of the Browns.

"I think we're all appalled by it. It is an egregious act," he said. "We all understand that. But after doing our research, exten-

sive research, analyzing the situation, we came to the conclusion that, you know what, I am willing to help a man from a second chance moving forward to be a better person, and that's all you can ask for in society, and that's all I'm trying to do."

But the decision to bring aboard Hunt raises other questions.

Why now? Why not wait until the draft to find another running back? Are the Browns equipped to handle Hunt? And is Dorsey confident he really knows and trusts a person?

"I am," he said.

But Hunt fooled the Chiefs. He lied about what happened before he was released, and the Browns are counting on the Cleveland native to be straight with them and be a model citizen when he returns to play for his hometown team.

Hunt released a statement saying he regretted his actions and vowed to change.

"I would like to once again apologize for my actions last year," he said. "What I did was wrong and inexcusable. That is not the man I was raised to be, and I've learned a great deal from that experience and certainly should have been more truthful about it after the fact. ... I am committed to following the necessary steps to learn and to be a better and healthier person from this situation."

"I also understand the expectations that the Browns have clearly laid out and that I have to earn my way back to the NFL. I'm a work in progress as a person, but I'm committed to taking advantage of the support systems that I have in place to become the best and healthier version of myself."

Dorsey insisted the Browns didn't feel pressured to sign Hunt out of fear he would go to another team.

Detroit Lions general manager Bob Quinn said the team evaluated Hunt and didn't feel comfortable trying to sign him because of numerous issues.

"I want good players and I want good people in this organization," Quinn said.

The Browns are trusting Hunt can be that for them.

Briefly

Reid: New Panthers' deal more proof of collusion

Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Eric Reid has signed a three-year contract worth more than \$22 million with the Carolina Panthers, a deal the safety believes is additional proof that NFL owners conspired to keep him out of the league last season.

Reid said Monday he believes he got "fair market value" after making just \$1.69 million last season from the Panthers. "If anything, it proves my point from last year," Reid said. "I didn't sign until the [fourth] week and did for almost the league minimum. And this year I signed a more substantial contract. And nothing has changed. I'm still the same player."

Reid still has a collusion case pending against NFL owners, alleging that he wasn't signed last

offseason as a direct result of his decision to kneel for the national anthem alongside former teammate Colin Kaepernick in protest of social and racial injustices.

Kaepernick is still out of the league and Reid believes that won't change anytime soon.

"Knowing what I know my hope tank is on [empty]," Reid said.

Reid also addressed the joint statement from the NFL and the NFL Players Association in January that he was not targeted by the league with too many drug tests in 2018.

"I believe otherwise," Reid said.

After signing with the Panthers in October, Reid started all 13 games played and had 73 tackles, five pass breakups, one interception and a sack. He was set to become an unrestricted free agent, but said re-signing with Carolina

now brings piece of mind to him and his family.

Nebraska RB facing charges in assault video

California authorities have filed criminal charges against Nebraska running back Maurice Washington, who is suspected of possessing a video of his underage high school girlfriend being sexually assaulted by two other people and sending it to the girl less than a year ago.

Clarissa Hamilton, supervisor of the sexual assault unit in the Santa Clara County Attorney's Office in San Jose, Calif., said Washington faces two charges: a felony count of possessing a video or photograph of a person under 18 who is engaging in or simulating sexual conduct and a misdemeanor count of posting a

video or photograph of a person engaging in or simulating sexual conduct without consent, leading to the person suffering emotional distress.

Hamilton said Washington was not present during the 2016 assault. She said the assault case was adjudicated in juvenile court and those records are sealed.

Washington obtained a video of the assault and sent it to the girl on March 2, 2018, Hamilton said, and the girl or her family contacted police shortly thereafter.

NBA investigates if LA, Simmons broke rules

The NBA will investigate whether league rules were broken when Philadelphia's Ben Simmons inquired about meeting with Los Angeles Lakers presi-

dent Magic Johnson for playing tips.

League spokesman Mike Bass said Monday that the NBA will look at the matter. Johnson revealed over the weekend that Simmons expressed a desire to meet, through an intermediary, and indicated that he would be willing to partake in such a session with the 76ers' starting point guard if all parties involved granted permission.

76ers general manager Elton Brand, however, told Philadelphia radio station WPEN that when the request was made about a month ago, he declined.

Brand said it was presented by members of Simmons' inner circle as a way last season's rookie of the year could raise his game by learning from various greats, and Johnson's name was on their list.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Guy helps No. 4 Virginia rally past North Carolina

BY AARON BEARD
Associated Press

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. — Virginia's halftime lead was gone. North Carolina was pushing further ahead. And the Cavaliers were committing so many turnovers that coach Tony Bennett's frustration bubbled over in the huddle.

Yet Kyle Guy, Ty Jerome and the rest of the fourth-ranked Cavaliers handled everything — dwindling clock, angry coach, powerful opponent and hostile crowd — with veteran poise.

Guy's back-to-back three-pointers in the final two minutes helped the Cavaliers beat the eighth-ranked Tar Heels 69-61 on Monday night, and Virginia remained near the top of the Atlantic Coast Conference standings after a weekend loss to No. 2 Duke.

Guy and DeAndre Hunter each scored 20 points for the Cavaliers (21-2, 9-2), who had less than 48 hours to regroup from the loss to the Blue Devils before visiting a UNC team that hadn't lost in nearly a month.

"Our guys knew what they had to do," Bennett said. "They responded. It wasn't perfect. I told them, 'This isn't about winning or losing.' I said, 'This is an important game to get back to what we need to do.'"

The Cavs certainly looked like themselves: efficient on both ends of the floor. The offense hummed along by shooting 53 percent, including 11-for-20 on three-pointers, and Virginia didn't turn it over in the final 12 minutes.

The defense, aside from surrendering one fearsome second-half flurry, made the Tar Heels (19-5, 9-2) work for just about everything while keeping them out of transition. After allowing Duke to shoot 58 percent and make 13 of 21 three-pointers Saturday, Virginia held UNC to 35-percent shooting Saturday, 9-for-30 (30 percent) from three-point range.

It all helped Virginia rally from seven down in the final eight minutes and avoid its first losing streak of any kind in two years.

"There's no excuses," said Jerome, who had 15 points and 11 assists. "I told the team before the game, 'I don't care if we played Duke Saturday. I don't care if we're on the road today.' Every game we come out and we expect to win, no matter where we are and who we're playing against."

Coby White scored 17 points to lead the Tar Heels, who were off to their best start in league play under a 16th-year coach Roy Williams. North Carolina man-



Virginia's Kyle Guy, center, battles for the ball with North Carolina's Coby White, left, and Kenny Williams during the second half on Monday in Chapel Hill, N.C. Virginia won 69-61.

aged a 17-3 second-half run to turn an eight-point deficit into a 49-43 lead, which ultimately reached 53-46 near the 9-minute mark.

But UNC, which has one of the nation's best defenses, missed 16 of 20 shots to close the game as Virginia's defense tightened.

"Their defense was better than our offense," Williams said. "Their offense was better than our defense. We had a great run ... and after that, it got to a lot more difficult. And you have to give them credit for making it a lot more difficult."

"They didn't do anything differently," UNC's Cameron Johnson said. "They kept playing the way they play."

SEC's top teams set for showdowns

BY GARY B. GRAVES
Associated Press

This week could determine who rules the Southeastern Conference — at least for now — as the top teams square off this week looking for league supremacy.

Top-ranked Tennessee (22-1, 10-0) can strengthen its grip on first place or find itself part of a three-team scramble with No. 5 Kentucky (20-3) and No. 19 LSU (19-4) — both a game back at 9-1 before their meeting on Tuesday in Lexington.

The Volunteers' docket includes a Wednesday night rematch with fourth-place South Carolina (12-11, 7-3) before visiting Kentucky in a Saturday night showdown.

Tennessee has a chance to take a two-game lead but coach Rick Barnes believes the battle will extend beyond this week.

It will sort itself out in another eight games, said Barnes, whose team has a school-record

18-game winning streak. "I just think you've got to be so locked in on your next opponent that that's what you've got to stay focused on because if you start trying to play the 'this, that or what if' game, it just never plays out like that."

"You just look at it as, 'Hey, this is what we've got.' If you get sidetracked from that, things can snowball for you if you don't stay focused on exactly what you need to do. And that's to focus on your next opponent."

Kentucky coach John Calipari is also trying to keep his surgically team focused on the present.

The Wildcats have won 10 consecutive games, including nine straight SEC contests since dropping the opener at Alabama. Though Calipari notes that this stretch of ranked foes isn't new for Kentucky after surviving three in a row last month, this one is the toughest.

Kentucky guard Tyler Herro agrees.

"That little stretch we had was a good test for us," he said. "I think the next stretch we have will be another test for us of just being focused, bringing it every day in practice and continuing to get better."

LSU has won 12 of 13, including Saturday's five-point home win over Auburn. The Tigers lost last year's meeting to Kentucky 74-71 in Baton Rouge but are in the hunt thanks to three starters averaging at least 13 points per game and led by 5-foot-11 guard Tremont Waters (15-7).

Should Kentucky clear that hurdle, another awaits with Tennessee. At the same time, Calipari is happy to see the Wildcats playing their best basketball entering this challenging segment.

"If we had played these two teams a month ago, it probably would have been ugly," Calipari said. "Now we've got a chance that we're coming together ourselves."



TONY GUTIERREZ/AP

Kansas forward Dedric Lawson shoots over TCU forward Lat Mayen during the first half on Monday. Lawson, the only non-freshman starter for the Jayhawks, had 14 points and 10 rebounds.

Kansas blows lead but tops TCU in OT

BY STEPHEN HAWKINS
Associated Press

FORT WORTH, Texas — Even when Kansas won games earlier this season against three Top 25 teams, the Jayhawks hadn't celebrated in the locker room like they did after an overtime victory at TCU.

They are a much different team now than when they beat Tennessee, Michigan State and Villanova. Coach Bill Self and the Jayhawks are now starting four freshmen.

Devon Dotson, one of those freshmen, scored a season-high 25 points with six free throws in the final 40 seconds of overtime and No. 14 Kansas won 82-77 on Monday night after blowing a 12-point lead in the second half.

"That's the best locker room we've had all year by far," Self said. "That was a game in which we played really well for the most part, then we screwed it up, then somehow or another were able to pull it back. We were fortunate that it went overtime after we screwed it up, and then we played really well in OT."

The Jayhawks (19-6, 8-4 Big 12) never trailed in overtime. They broke the final tie on K.J. Lawson's jumper with 1:09 left before Dotson sealed it at the free-throw line.

Dotson also had 10 rebounds for one of the three double-doubles for Kansas. Ochai Agbaji had 20 points and 11 rebounds, while Dedric Lawson, a junior and the only non-freshman starter, had 14 points and 10 rebounds.

"Devon was really tough, one of the toughest guys on the court," Agbaji said of the only player in the game for all 45 minutes.

"You can't take him out, and he got tired," Self said.

TCU (17-7, 5-6), trying to win consecutive games against Top 25 teams for the first time in school history, had a 13-0 run late in regulation and took a 69-65 lead on J.D. Miller's two free throws with 2:07 left. The Frogs didn't score

again until overtime.

"A game we should have won," Desmond Bane, who led TCU with 18 points, said before pausing. "Should have won."

Dedric Lawson had a putback basket for the Jayhawks with 1:06 left, and they got the ball back after TCU freshman Kendrick Davis lost it out of bounds. The ball was initially ruled off a Kansas player until a replay review.

K.J. Lawson tied the game on a floater with 24 seconds left, and Davis missed a contested shot at the buzzer that would have won it.

"Had our opportunities, had our chances," coach Jamie Dixon said. "Certainly in regulation, we were in position to win the game, but we didn't get it done. Defensively didn't finish it, two layups at the end to tie it up."

Davis finished with 16 points, while Kouat Noi had 14 and Alex Robinson scored 13 for the Frogs.

Big picture

Kansas: The young Jayhawks got a big road win. After senior guard Lagerald Vick took a leave of absence from the program last week, Self used four freshman starters Saturday for only the second time in his 16 seasons. They won at Oklahoma State, rebounding from a loss at Kansas State, and overcame a raucous atmosphere in Fort Worth.

"We're not as good visually as what other teams we've had are. We made the game a lot harder on ourselves than what it is," Self said. "That doesn't mean we don't have a good team. ... We haven't hit our stride yet."

TCU: It was a stinging loss for TCU, which had won eight consecutive Big 12 home games. The Frogs were coming off a 92-83 win at then-No. 17 Iowa State on Saturday. They jumped out to a 7-0 lead in the first 1½ minutes against Kansas, and had the big run late before falling.

AUTO RACING

Hendrick sends statement with sweep

Owner shows commitment to rebounding from 2018 with 1-2-3-4 Daytona qualifying

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — Rick Hendrick was telling the truth when he insisted this year was going to be much improved from last season, the worst in team history.

He moved personnel and split up seven-time NASCAR Cup champions Jimmie Johnson and Chad Knaus. He had a Navy SEAL deliver an inspirational speech to all of Hendrick Motorsports, met with all four of his teams and held luncheons and team-building exercises.

When he sent his teams to Daytona for the 36th time, he sent them to win.

Message delivered.

Hendrick horsepower routed the competition in qualifying for the Daytona 500 with a 1-2-3-4 sweep for Chevrolet. A few hours later, Johnson finally won a race after no victories last season.

Hendrick Motorsports is now 2-for-2 at Speedweeks with the front row for Sunday's season-opening Daytona 500 and Johnson's victory in the exhibition Clash. The proud Hendrick organization is using NASCAR's biggest stage to show how serious the boss is about rebounding from 2018, when Johnson was winless for the first time in his career, Alex Bowman and William Byron had forgettable first seasons, and Chase Elliott's three late victories were among the few bright spots.

"Last year sucked. I ain't gonna do that no more," Hendrick told The Associated Press just one week before his cars left North Carolina for Daytona.

If this was a sequel to "Days of Thunder," with Randy Quaid again playing a version of Hendrick, the car owner might guarantee a Daytona 500 victory. Hendrick, after all, is from a romantic time in NASCAR when a

In the Pits



by JENNA FRYER • AP



PHOTOS BY TERRY RENNA/AP

Hendrick driver Alex Bowman, left, congratulates teammate and Daytona 500 pole winner William Byron, right, after their qualifying runs at Daytona International Speedway. Hendrick swept the top four spots for Sunday's season-opening race in Daytona, Fla.

car salesman from Virginia could scrape together the money to enter the Daytona 500 and turn a fledgling little Chevrolet team into one of the most valuable properties in sports. He still believes that with hard work and the right people, a team can step back and admire a glistening race car, confident that girl is a winner.

Hendrick still has his folksy Southern charm, still longs for those simpler days of racing, still wants to arrive in Daytona knowing his cars are the very best in the field.

So consider Sunday the first day in a new era at Hendrick Motorsports, where William Byron and Alex Bowman gave NASCAR its youngest front row in Daytona 500 history by qualifying first and second. Byron recently turned 21 and begins his second season with Knaus, who split with Johnson after 17 years.

Knaus made a statement in 2002 when he and Johnson debuted at Daytona and won the pole in their first race together. He opened this chapter of his career the same way: winning the pole with Byron in their first race together at the Daytona 500.

It was the fifth consecutive year a Hendrick car has won the pole for the Daytona 500 and it was the 700th pole for Chevrolet, the only partner Hendrick has

had in racing. As Hendrick last season worked through a massive personnel consolidation, Chevrolet struggled with its NASCAR introduction of the Camaro and won just four of 36 Cup races.

Rolling off the trucks as the four fastest cars for the Daytona 500 was an important message for the carmaker and its flagship team.

"Well, you know, Chevrolet has been awfully good to me," Hendrick said. "That was my first dealership. It's all I've ever raced. It's all my dad ever raced. That bowtie, we're bowtie-proud. What a great day for Chevrolet, our organization, and these drivers. I'm really proud."

And that was before Johnson bulldozed his way into victory lane.

Johnson is tired of losing and tired of social media trolls telling him he should retire. He also was under mounting pressure from his youngest daughter, who had prayed every night for Daddy to win again.

Johnson's opportunity came as a race-ending rainstorm descended on Daytona International Speedway. It was time to go, and his aggressive pass on Paul Menard triggered a 16-car wreck in a field of 20. It was what he had to do to win an exhibition race worth little more than a trophy, and he



Jimmie Johnson's crew adds fuel and changes tires during a pit stop in the NASCAR Clash on Sunday in Daytona Beach, Fla. Johnson, who didn't win at all in 2018, won the race.

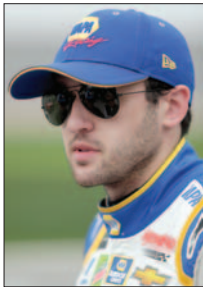
was unremorseful as he watched video replays that showed him causing the crash.

Johnson for a year has insisted he can still win a record eighth championship, and now he must do it with first-year Cup crew chief Kevin Meendering. Just as Knaus used qualifying to prove he's motivated in his new role, Johnson used the Clash to prove he's got a lot of fight left in him.

The best car rarely wins the

Daytona 500. And the racing formula for the showcase race is unlike the remainder of the NASCAR schedule, in which a completely different rules package will be used to determine the champion.

These season-opening wins at Daytona are morale victories, nothing more. But it's exactly what Hendrick needed for his team to show it will be better this year.



JOHN RAOUX/AP

Chase Elliott stands on pit road during Daytona 500 qualifying, where he finished fourth.

SPORTS

Aiming high

Air Force pilot pushing toward spot on Olympic bobsled team

BY DAVE SOUTHRN
The Idaho Statesman

Like any great bobsledding story, Dakota Lynch's tale begins in Africa.

OK, so maybe the setting is not typical, but then again, neither is Lynch's path to earning a spot as one of 14 members of the USA national bobsled team.

Lynch serves as a pilot in the Air Force. It was last February during a deployment in Africa that a friend mentioned he had read a story about Nate Weber, an Army Green Beret who was competing in the bobsled in the Pyeongchang Olympics.

‘It’s like being in a jet plane with a monkey ripping the controls around, dealing with an angry Mike Tyson.’

Dakota Lynch
Air Force pilot
on riding
in a bobsled

Lynch booked his ticket to his first combine in Park City, Utah, the day before the event. He figured he had friends in the area, so if it didn't work, he at least could see them.

Well, it worked out pretty well. He took first place, then attended a rookie camp that coincided with what would have been a fifth deployment, but a friend took his place. Lynch made it worthwhile, moving on to the National Push Championships, then the team trials before mak-

ing the team as a push athlete. He won two silvers and a gold in his first races at the North American Cup in January in Calgary.

For a pilot who has flown 1,000 combat hours, hurtling down an icy track at 90 mph provides a different kind of rush.

"There's a lot of camaraderie, teamwork, it's an extension of that," said Lynch, who is the rear pusher on two- and four-man teams. "When you're going into combat, you have to control your reaction, but in this you get to let that adrenaline be unleashed. It's like

**SEE AIMING
ON PAGE 26**

Lynch was a star athlete growing up in Boise, and had continued to stay in shape through his military service. His first experience on a sled was last August, and by the end of October he was named to Team USA.

"If this is as far as it goes, sweet, but I of course would like to go to the (2022) Olympics," Lynch said. "It's now in the realm of possibility, which is really crazy to even think about."

Six months after the seed was planted,

Capt. Dakota Lynch, a U-28A pilot with the 34th Special Operations Squadron, is a push athlete who is competing for a spot on the 2022 U.S. Olympic bobsled team.

RYAN CONROY/Courtesy of the U.S. Air Force

